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THE NEWSPAPER FOR SITTINGBOURNE, ISLE OF SHEPPEY, FAVERSHAM & DISTRICT

Issue No 80
Available from Wednesday,
March 25, 2009

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THE NEWSPAPER FOR SITTINGBOURNE, ISLE OF SHEPPEY, FAVERSHAM & DISTRICT



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REVEALED: KARA TO BE BOROUGH'S NEW CHIEF EXEC

THIS is the man set to be handed the job of leading us through one of the most difficult economic periods in the last century.

Abdool Kara, 44, is the assistant chief executive for the London borough of Merton – and he is set to become Swale council's new chief executive, pocketing £130,000-a-year plus bonuses.

Yourswale can reveal an interview panel set up by the local authority has recommended Mr Kara's appointment unanimously.

And we've had the first exclusive chat with the man tasked with sculpting the borough's future.

The subject will be formally bought to the public's attention at a full council meeting tomorrow (Thursday) when the

EXCLUSIVE

■ BY NICK AMES

appointment is expected to be ratified.

The highly-respected Mr Kara said he has already spoken to his current boss about taking on the job one day a week from Easter before assuming full control of the position in early July.

The only things that remain are formalities such as a medical examination.

And his appointment promises to usher in a new dawn for the borough after the fiasco of the Mark Bilsborough era.

Mr Bilsborough was eventually sacked from the council top job last year after a disciplinary hearing. He had been controversially placed on full-paid 'gardening leave' for 16 months –

much to the chagrin of taxpayers left bemused by the situation.

Mike Fisher took over the post on an interim basis in April 2008 but will now be replaced by Mr Kara.

Mr Kara said: "My approach to the role will initially be two-fold.

"The first one is to make sure the machine that is the council is working properly. I think the council would acknowledge that it has had some issues over performance in its time.

"But in later months things have been going the right way under Mike Fisher.

"Secondly, I want to ensure there is a much more outward looking approach.

"An important thing we have to do is minimise the effect of the recession and ensure that we are in a strong position as the economic climate

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



CAN HE FIX IT? WE HOPE SO...

Abdool Kara (pictured) will hand in his notice at London borough Merton on Friday – assuming Swale councillors ratify his appointment tomorrow night. He is renowned for demanding local authorities hit the highest of standards.



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ROAD BLOCK: Careless parking is making some roads virtually impassable for fire engines

Double parking will cost lives, warn firefighters

■ BY NICK AMES

SOMEONE in Faversham will die if inconsiderate motorists do not improve their parking, say fire crews.

A number of roads across the town are regularly turned into no-go zones for fire engines and other emergency vehicles because of cars left double-parked, at junctions or too far from the kerb.

In a bid to combat this problem, a poster and leaflet campaign has been launched to warn drivers that it won't be long before carelessly parked vehicles result in a fatality.

The poster and leaflet show a newspaper cutting with the headline "child dies in house fire".

While fictitious, the poster serves to remind drivers of the extreme consequences which careless parking may cause.

These will be placed around problem areas and will even be placed on cars that are badly parked.

Police inspector David Applegate said: "The majority of residents do park safely and lawfully, however a minority of people do not seem to give any regard to other road users. I urge

all residents to give consideration to how and where they park.

"If they cannot park near to their house without causing an obstruction, then I ask that they consider parking further away. Such an action may save a life, and it could be theirs, or a family member. Additionally, poor parking may constitute an offence and consideration may be given to the prosecution of people that park in this way."

Charlotte Hudson, Swale council community safety officer, said: "By backing this poster campaign we hope to draw everyone's attention to the necessity of considering the potential consequences of where they park."

"We have had a positive response to previous poster campaigns and along with Kent Police and KFRS, we wholeheartedly support this initiative."

Fire crews will continue to work alongside their Community Safety partners to monitor problem areas and target those who continue to ignore this message. This could involve fines for the perpetrators and removal of cars causing an obstruction.

It forms part of a recent nationwide call for action to be taken over the overcrowding of streets. It has prompted some to demand new homes include more driveways and are set further off the road.

Salary 'good money' for a local council

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

improves so that the regeneration of the area can continue

"That is incredibly important for the whole of Swale."

Mr Kara admitted his salary was "good money" for a borough council and he is looking forward to learning more about the area.

"I obviously want to get to know what the issues facing the people of Faversham are," he said.

"In a few months I am sure I will know far more about the town than I do now."

"What I do feel is the council must help those who are in the greatest amount of need of assistance and that is what I intend to do."

"But there will be difficult decisions to make and not all of them will be about the recession. Reduced public spending is going to take place whatever the colour of Government and I want to ensure that the council is in the best possible position to advise politicians to help them make the right decisions."

Mr Kara said he comes from quite a strong local authority background.

Enthusiasm

He said: "I have been in this role at Merton for three-and-a-half years and I also spent seven years with the Audit Commission.

"What I want to bring to the job is vigour and enthusiasm, together with a commitment to local public services.

"A full meeting of the council takes place on Thursday and following that I intend to hand in my notice at the end of the month if all goes to plan."

"Then I have to work three months notice but I have already spoken to the chief executive here about the possibility of doing one day a week in Swale after Easter."

"I then hope to take up the post full time at the start of July."

In a letter to councillors, leader Andrew Bowles wrote: "I am delighted that we have made this appointment which starts a new chapter for the council and the whole community of Swale."

"We had an excellent choice of candidates – by far the strongest field I have ever been involved in interviewing."

"I am sure that any one of the four interviewed candidates would have been more than capable of being appointed."

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Dig discovers glimpse of town's ancient past

Remains reveal 11th century site

■ BY NICK AMES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL dig in the centre of Faversham has revealed what is believed to be a home dating from the 11th century.

The ancient building was uncovered in Abbey Street at the site of the old Whitbread Training Centre, next door to the Phoenix pub.

Pits, post holes and intact flagstone floor have been discovered by members of the Swale and Thames Survey Company which stages digs across the county.

Fragments of pottery from the Middle Ages and an even more ancient piece from the start of the first millennium have also been taken away for examination and preservation.

Significant

Archaeologist Dr Paul Wilkinson said: "As part of the normal process when a planning application is put in, an archaeological team surveyed the area and found that it was historically significant."

"We have been able to take some items recovered from what we believe are rubbish pits away for examination.

"Faversham is an historic town and we have uncovered a building which has been used



REVEALED: Fragments of pottery from the Middle Ages have been uncovered by archaeologists at site in Abbey Street

through the centuries. The town is a rich area to explore."

The site is actually set for building development by property company Gillcrest Homes.

It was first decided to be important as various medieval buildings are in the vicinity including the 14th century St Mary of Charity Church.

The exact spot was also the site of a brewery dating from the 19th century.

During the investigation a pair of trenches were originally dug to try and ascertain the period of the old building.

Later finds included pottery fragments dating from the 12th and 13th centuries as well as holes where posts would have been placed to hold up the structure.

Further parts of the uncovered structure can be correlated to a map which dates from the 16th century of what was then the Abbey Farm Estate which shows a property in the exact location of the finds.

Other remnants of usage from Victorian times have also been uncovered including a cast iron ventilation grill.

The team discovered that the building had been extensively redeveloped in the last 150 years and the medieval structure replaced initially by terraced housing and then by the brewery buildings.

They say this indicates any earlier deposits – from prehistoric or Roman times – may have been removed.

Scholarship awarded to a good sport

A STUDENT has been presented with one of Canterbury Christ Church University's first sport scholarships.

Huw Stevens, 20, of The Street, Boughton, was awarded a scholarship for his sporting excellence in hockey and was one of nine students presented with an award.

The scheme aims to support talented sports men and women in achieving their academic and sporting goals.

Mr Stevens, who is studying for a primary education degree, said: "It felt good to be recognised for my hard work in my sporting career and rewarded for the effort I've put in."

"The scholarship will help financially and will give me the status to be an influence in my sport."

He is currently playing for Canterbury Hockey Club and the university and has represented Kent, the South East and Wales.

He has participated in competitions in Lisbon and Rakovnik. Most recently he had success playing for the Celtic Panthers and the Wales Under-21 team which came fifth in the 2008 European Trophy.

Residents' fury at 'arrogant' builder's plans to build flats

ANGRY residents say a new four-storey block of flats on the site of the Co-op store near Faversham railway station will "stick out like a sore thumb".

Developers want to build 14 flats above a newly-constructed store in Forbes Road which is currently where the convenience store is situated.

Eldon Hinchcliffe of the Faversham Society said the new building would wreck the current approach to the conservation area near the station.

He added that the developers had shown "supreme arrogance" in trying to site a modern building amidst the historic Georgian part of the town.

Architect Mr Hinchcliffe said: "The modern design and materials relate poorly to those of the 18th and 19th century buildings."

"The location of the building towards the front of the site would make it much more obtrusive and would result in substantial harm to the character and appearance of this part of the conservation area."

"There is almost no demand for flats in Faversham. We do not require another 14."

"If this proposal is approved I will take an extremely dim view of any Swale planning officer ever suggesting to me that one of my designs must respect its setting."

Ward councillor Anita Walker said the plan had insufficient space for parking and the amount of parking for shoppers would also be cut.

At a site meeting other protestors said this proposal was like "filling in a gap in a row of teeth".

The decision on the future of the site will be taken by Swale planners on April 2.

Spring Loaded with stuff for kids to do

CHILDREN across the borough can learn magic, fencing and even street dance this Easter as part of Swale's Spring Loaded programme.

Children aged eight -14 will be able to take part in sport and creative activities during the Easter holidays at the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School.

Spring Loaded gives youngsters the opportunity to learn new sports and skills as well as keep active during the school holidays.

The activities on offer range from more traditional sports like football, rugby and cricket to the more unusual trampolining and tri golf. The programme also offers art sessions, sculpture and clay modelling and music making.

The activities will take place from 10am until 2.30pm from April 6 -9 and April 14-17.

Each activity will cost £4. For details call 01795 417600.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Society to discuss onset of Alzheimer's at meeting

THE Alzheimer's Society is holding their annual open meeting at 11am this Friday.

There will be a talk about early onset dementia and the first ever presentation of the Ruth Pollen Award for Carers. Accounts will also be presented and officers elected.

The Thanet and Canterbury branch of the Society will hold the meeting at St Andrew's Church Hall, Hampton Pier Avenue, Herne Bay. Coffee will be served from 10.30am and the meeting is expected to last until noon.

Man beaten by thugs who took wallet carrying £380

CROOKS stole £380 in a robbery in Victoria Park, Herne Bay last Wednesday, with the victim requiring hospital treatment after he was punched and kicked.

The attack happened between 2pm and 2.15pm. The victim, 33, was assaulted by two men who beat him and stole his wallet.

Both suspects are white males, around 20-years-old. One was 6ft tall, had a shaved head and blue tracksuit, the other slim build, 6ft 2in with a grey hooded top.

Scouts' supermarket bag pack raises a vital £600

SCOUTS helped shoppers pack their bags at a supermarket at the weekend - and raised hundreds of pounds in the process.

The youngsters from 1st Whitstable Scouts did a bag pack at the local Sainsbury's store in Chestfield in order to raise funds for the overhaul of their Acton Road headquarters.

And the hard-working, helpful children were rewarded for their efforts by shoppers handing over £600.

Youngsters pitch up to learn about camping

CANTERBURY Rotary Club has organised its first outdoor skills day for teenagers.

They were taught to cook safely on camping stoves as well as pick a suitable camp site, pitch tents, navigate with a map and compass as well as some first aid skills.

Youngsters also got to see the contents of a ShelterBox which is dropped to people in disaster areas and contains equipment to help 10 people survive for six months.

Interested in similar events? Email the club; service@rotarycanterburysunrise.org.

Here come the girls for summer gig

■ BY CHRIS BRITCHER

CHART stars Sugababes and James Morrison are to perform back-to-back outdoor shows in Canterbury this summer.

The two acts have been confirmed to perform in June at Kent's home ground of the St Lawrence Ground in Old Dover Road.

And the two shows should prove a much needed money-spinner for the cash-strapped cricket club which suffered more heavy losses recently as a result of the recession putting its ambitious ground redevelopment proposals on hold.

The multi-million selling all-girl group the Sugababes will appear on June 26 while Brit Award winner James Morrison will perform on June 27.

Tickets are available now for both shows and support acts will be revealed soon.

They will be the first shows since Elton John played to a packed house in 2006. He performed all his hits at the club in a show which made around £30,000 for club coffers.

Kent's director of operations, Jon Fordham, said: "We are delighted to beat off a whole host of competition to bring two fantastic musical acts to Canterbury."

"James Morrison's reputation as a must-see live performer ensures that he will bring a great following while the Sugababes are a show-stopping live act and they too will prove really popular."

"Elton John was our first music concert here at Kent County Cricket Club, back in 2006, and he performed to a capacity crowd. Now, three years later, we are confident that both concerts will fill our ground."

Malcolm Spencer, from Squareleg Entertainment Ltd, who has helped the club put together the concerts added: "Both the Sugababes and James Morrison are delighted to be playing here. The St Lawrence Ground is a fantastic setting for a music concert and I fully expect both nights to sell out. It's not



SWEET SOUNDS: The Sugababes will look to bowl over a sell-out crowd at the St Lawrence later this year

often that you get two massive acts playing in the highly picturesque county of Kent, so I am confident that people of all ages will support and attend these events."

• Tickets can be booked via Kent's new-look official website www.kentccc.com or via the ticket hotline on 01227 456886. Tickets from the club are £26.50 which includes booking fee and postage.

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Centre helps crime crackdown

CRIME has gone down in Thanington thanks to the new resource centre, say police who are celebrating its success with a new video.

Canterbury officers and Thanington residents star in a new film to mark the start of the force's Safer Spring campaign.

It highlights the work of police officers who worked with the council and other partners to help create the resource centre.

Since it opened police say the area has seen a big reduction in crime and vandalism in the area.

Paula Spencer, who runs the centre, said "The police are part of the team and the children love

them because they are great. They join in and are fantastic, and we really appreciate having them here."

Police community support officer, Sam Milton, is one of the officers involved with the Thanington project.

He said: "It is an absolutely fabulous place. It helps the community and it makes my job easier because I know where the kids are and I can interact with them."

View Kent Police's video launching the campaign at our free, broadband website www.yourkenttv.co.uk. Search 'safer'.

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Webmaster in call to boost recycling site

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

THE creator of innovative recycling website SnaffleUp is looking for a PR savvy partner to help increase the number of users.

SnaffleUp allows visitors to post up their unwanted items to see if anyone else can make use of them, but Herne Bay businessman Chris Toynbee, who started the site in August last year, says he may be forced to shut the site down unless he can increase the number of users.

SnaffleUp has built up a user base of more than 5,000 people, but Mr Toynbee says he has yet to reach the "critical mass" required to keep it viable. He hopes a PR boost will get more people logging on and allow SnaffleUp to become self supporting.

Mr Toynbee said: "There is definitely scope there to make money. It just needs to get that critical mass of users."

"Once the number of users goes up then there will be money to be made from advertising revenue and a few other sources, but it's just getting that number of users."

"It's just been difficult getting the word out there. You need a budget and marketing expertise and I just don't have that at the moment."

"I'm looking for someone to take on a sort of shareholder type role as a partner, with some background in PR and marketing who knows how to spread the word."

Mr Toynbee says the economic downturn might even benefit sites like his own.

He said: "In theory, during the economic downturn this kind of site should do well as more people will be looking for free items."

The things that get added to the site daily are many and varied with everything from lobster pots to lampshades being given away.



Critical Mass: Chris Toynbee is looking for someone to help him boost membership of website SnaffleUp

And Mr Toynbee is happy with the thought that what could have once ended up in Britain's overstuffed landfill sites is being reused somewhere else.

Mr Toynbee has eight years' experience designing websites, mainly for corporate clients, but says he prefers working on SnaffleUp.

He said: "I do a lot of corporate work, but I like doing SnaffleUp more. I spend a few days a week on it, depending on how much other work I've got on, but I enjoy it much more than the stuff that pays the bills."

Body on beach was missing man

THE body of a Sheerness man who had been missing for a week was discovered washed up on the beach at Tankerton last Friday.

Steven Parratt, 36, of Meyrick Road, Sheerness, was found dead in front of The Marine Hotel, Marine Parade.

Mr Parratt had been reported missing on Friday March 13, sparking a public appeal by police.

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Designs behind the new-look Marlowe

KEITH WILLIAMS is the architect given the task of defining Canterbury's skyline with the new Marlowe Theatre.

In a special interview conducted last year, reporter Nick Ames met Mr Williams to run through the plans and his reasoning behind his ambitious designs.

And you can take a look at the plans for yourself simply by logging-on to our free broadband TV channel at www.yourkenttv.co.uk. Simply search 'Marlowe' and scroll through the clips.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Concert to help homeless

THE GOOD Samaritan who organised a Christmas dinner for Canterbury's homeless last year is starting fundraising early with a live music event.

Last year, Matthew Meyritz, a chef from The New Inn in Havelock Street, provided a free dinner, present and evening of entertainment for 150 homeless people, and others, in the city.

Although he had help from other chefs and bar staff, with some companies and organisations providing such essentials as soft drinks and cutlery, he and his brother Tom generously paid for food for the entire occasion.

By starting early this year, Mr Meyritz hopes to entice others to chip in and is combining fun with fundraising by organising a live music event.

The music will be performed by students and local high street buskers, including a Christ Church University student who will play the piano and sing.

The event will take place on Wednesday, April 8 at St Peter's Hall, St Peter's Street, Canterbury between 11am and 3.30pm.

Man injured in fire at flats

A FIRE outside a Canterbury flat has lead to a man being treated for smoke inhalation.

Police and firefighters were called to the blaze in Hertford Court, off Warwick Road, last Tuesday.

The fire is believed to have started in a bag of rubbish in a walkway outside flats on the second floor. Police were alerted by Kent Fire and Rescue Service at 12.45am.

A man from one of the flats was taken to the Kent and Canterbury Hospital but was allowed home following treatment.

There was minor damage to three of the flats.

Drunk hit car with shovel

A DRUNKEN man attacked a sports car with a shovel but couldn't remember why he did it.

Simon Ferrett, 37, of Oakdale Road in Herne Bay, went into a garden in Oxenden Street and took the shovel and a plant pot.

He was seen attacking a Nissan 200 SX sports saloon by police.

Last week he admitted criminal damage at Canterbury Magistrates Court. Ferrett said he did not know why he smashed the windscreen and caused other dents.

Ferrett was given a 12-month community order, 200 hours community service and ordered to pay £1,500 in damages and £60 costs.

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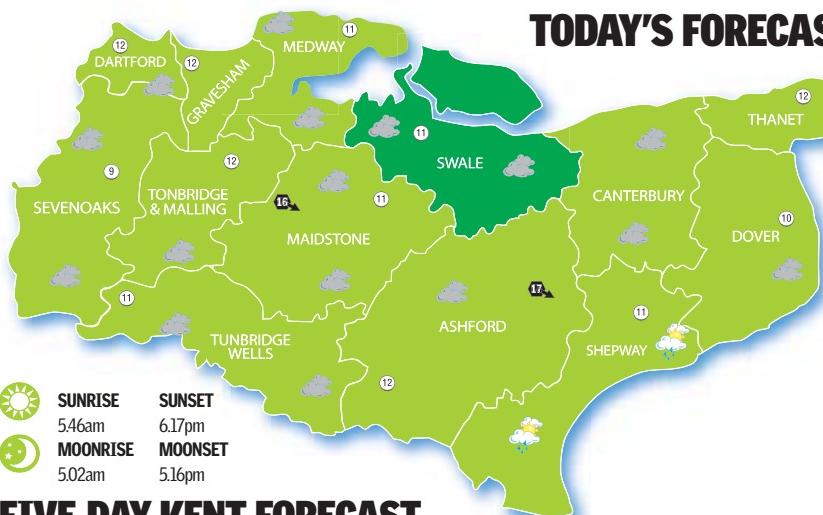


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FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

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Ashford	11°C	12°C	11°C	10°C	9°C		Gravesend	11°C	12°C	12°C	10°C	9°C
Canterbury	10°C	12°C	11°C	10°C	8°C		Maidstone	11°C	12°C	11°C	10°C	8°C
Chatham	9°C	11°C	11°C	9°C	8°C		Ramsgate	10°C	12°C	11°C	10°C	8°C
Dartford	11°C	12°C	12°C	10°C	9°C		Rochester	9°C	11°C	11°C	9°C	8°C
Dover	9°C	10°C	10°C	9°C	8°C		Sevenoaks	9°C	9°C	10°C	8°C	7°C
Faversham	9°C	11°C	11°C	9°C	8°C		Sittingbourne	9°C	11°C	11°C	9°C	8°C
Folkestone	9°C	10°C	10°C	9°C	8°C		Tonbridge	11°C	11°C	12°C	10°C	8°C
Gillingham	9°C	11°C	11°C	9°C	8°C		Tun Wells	11°C	11°C	12°C	10°C	8°C

TODAY'S FORECAST



WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	1:51pm	6.1m
	Sunday	3:26pm	6.1m
Dover	Saturday	11:51am	6.6m
	Sunday	1:27pm	6.6m
Dungeness	Saturday	12:01pm	7.8m
	Sunday	1:36pm	7.8m
Ramsgate	Saturday	12:21pm	5.0m
	Sunday	1:57pm	5.0m
Sheerness	Saturday	1:41pm	5.8m
	Sunday	3:16pm	5.8m
Whitstable	Saturday	1:43pm	5.2m
	Sunday	3:15pm	5.2m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

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Athens	12°C	New York	10°C
Barcelona	17°C	Paris	13°C
Beijing	9°C	Rome	14°C
Bombay	37°C	Sydney	27°C
Cape Town	25°C	Tenerife	19°C
Cardiff	9°C	Tokyo	15°C
Gibraltar	16°C	Vancouver	8°C
Hong Kong	28°C	Warsaw	6°C
Las Palmas	21°C	Wellington	13°C

Council ready to switch off to help Earth Hour cause

RESIDENTS, businesses and community groups should turn their lights out for one hour on Saturday, according to council bosses.

The call is part of Swale's contribution to Earth Hour, a global initiative run by the World Wildlife Fund to tackle climate change, which starts at 8.30pm. Major cities worldwide have already stated their backing for the event.

Councillor Andrew Bowles has signed up to the scheme on behalf of the council by adding his name to the list of individuals and organisations who are supporting it.

This year all non-essential lights in Swale House and the Sheerness District Office, will be switched off to highlight the local authority's continued environmental work.

Impact

The council has already signed up to the Nottingham Declaration which commits the council to work with central government to deliver the UK Climate Change Programme, the Kyoto Protocol and the target for carbon dioxide reduction by 2010. Staff are also working on a Local Climate Impacts Profile that will inform how the effects of climate change can be minimised and will help the community adapt to the impact of climate change.

Cllr Bowles said: "If everybody in Swale turns out all non-essential lights in their homes and workplaces at the same time on March 28, it will help to highlight the issues of climate change and will emphasise the need to save energy and reduce Swale's carbon footprint."

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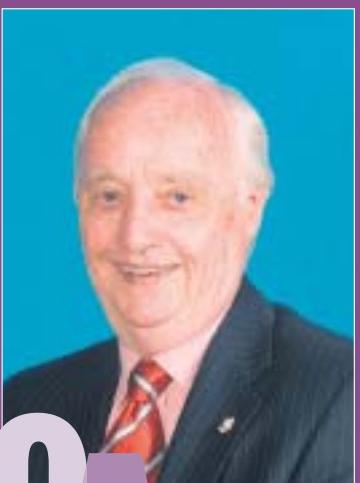
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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

MIKE HARRISON



Q & A

Kent Police Authority is a watchdog which checks the county's police service is doing its job. **Nick Ames** spoke to KPA member and Kent County Councillor Mike Harrison about how the force is held to account

Q Can you tell us about your position within the Kent Police Authority?

A My role is to oversee Kent Police and check it's doing a good job. I'm one of 17 members that regularly meet with the force to ask questions on behalf of the public to senior officers and staff.

I'm the lead member for roads policing and represent the public in east Kent. I joined the police authority in 2005 as an elected Kent County Council member.

Q What is the most challenging part of your work?

A The constant reading of documents, which is very time consuming! We have numerous committee meetings each year.

Q How is the group composed?

A Every member on the authority has certain committees such as performance, human resources, the behaviour of offices and finance. It's also very difficult keeping up with the Home Office – they are constantly changing what they want from forces and authorities.

Q What do you like most about it?

A I think for me it's seeing things for real – how the police actually work. The authority does have a level of influence and I think for

me its knowing that we can make a difference on behalf of the police council taxpayers we represent.

Q What is the single most important thing you have achieved?

A Kent is working with Essex Police on a number of projects. I was really proud to be involved in a multi-agency road check operation that took place at the Dartford Crossing.

Technology is the name of the game these days and we used an automatic number plate recognition system that allows the police to crosscheck number plates with their own database.

Q How does it work?

A It flags up if the driver is wanted for having no car tax, benefits fraud or for a criminal activity.

We also have drug dogs and a drug trace detection machine on hand to support searches. It was absolutely brilliant to see all the partners working together with the police.

Q What are the biggest hurdles you have to overcome?

A It would have to be giving the authority my free time. I have my work as a councillor to do as well, so I have to try to fit everything in.

Q How do you enjoy living in Kent?

A I wouldn't live anywhere else.

Q What could best be done to improve policing?

A I think it's got to be the bureaucracy. Time and time again I see our police officers bogged down in paper work. They should be freed up to catch criminals. I crusade on this topic whenever I can to try to influence the authority and force to make changes. The use of technology such as blackberries and in-car computers is helping. But there's so much more to be done.

Q How do you relax?

A I've just gone back to the golf course and my handicap is 26 – which I'm quite pleased about. I like the fact golf is all down to you as an individual – the fact that you're not reliant on anyone else.

Q If members of the public want to contact the police authority how can they get in touch?

A People can telephone the authority on 01622 677 055 or they can email me at kpaenquiries@kent.police.pnn.co.uk.

Alternatively visit our website, which is www.kentpa.kent.police.uk, to find out more.

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EDITOR'S CHOICE

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Recycling projects given helping hand

Countywide green schemes given share of £70,000

ELEVEN community projects have been awarded a total of £70,000 to go towards developing eco-friendly schemes.

The Kent Waste Partnership, which includes representatives from Kent County Council and the 12 district and borough councils in Kent, awarded the funding on Thursday from its Community Waste Action Fund. Each of the projects will use the money to fund initiatives designed to encourage recycling in their communities.

■ BY ANNA WHITE

The West Kent Extra and West Kent YMCA group was awarded the largest amount of £25,000, which will go towards purchasing two new vehicles to expand the group's existing recycling furniture scheme.

Landfill

The smallest amount of £100 was presented to Milstead parish council, near Sittingbourne, to purchase compost bins for local residents.

Minster Community Centre on

Sheppen, will get £8,000; Eynsham parish council, in Dover, £6,000; and Peppenburg, a residential home for adults with learning difficulties in Tunbridge Wells, will receive £7,000, all to go towards supporting higher recycling rates and cutting food waste.

Penepenburg fundraiser Nigel Hill said: "We live in the countryside and the last thing we want to see being built is a landfill, so we are going to recycle everything on site and hold events to get the community involved and hopefully encourage them to recycle everything they can as well."

Others Kent schemes to be award-

ed funding include the Greenhithe Community Market Garden, with £7,642; the First Faversham Scout Group, £2,000; Faversham Assistance Centre, £5,000; Resopon in Thamehead, £3,700; Skillnet, £2,600; and the Beat Project, £1,376.

Initiatives

The 11 projects were presented with cheques for the funding at County Hall in Maidstone on Thursday morning, by Kent County Council's lead member for environment Charles Hibberd and Sevenoaks district council's cabinet

member for the cleaner greener environment Avril Hunter.

Cllr Hunter, who attended on behalf of the district and borough councils throughout Kent, said: "These projects know their communities and know what their community needs and they are setting a fantastic example to others."

"I have been so impressed by the quality of the initiatives the projects have come up with."

Cllr Hibberd added: "Each of the projects is run by volunteers and they should be applauded as are helping to preserve the future of our county."



CHEQUE IT OUT: Members of the 11 projects receiving their money last week

Picture ANNA WHITE

Industry left soured by our work-shy young

DAIRY farmers say the industry in Kent is dwindling because young people are not prepared to get their hands dirty.

The number of farms producing milk, butter and cheese in the UK has fallen dramatically over the past 20 years and there are concerns the trend will never be reversed due to a lack of interest in entering the profession.

Falling milk prices coupled with rising production costs have made it a difficult time to be a dairy farmer, although some in Kent say the industry still has a bright future as long as there are people willing to work in it. Romney Marsh farmer Steve Furnival said:

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

"There are guys who are retiring all the time, but the problem is the younger generation are not interested in the commitment of the job. They don't want to get up early and work hard all day."

Breeding

"I think there are about 35 or 40 farms left in Kent, but that's about half the number it was 20 years ago. The ones that are left tend to expand or become more efficient through better feeding or breeding techniques."

According to figures released this week by the Conservative Party, almost 15,000 farmers have quit the dairy industry since 1997 – the equivalent of 26 a week.

South East MEP Richard Ashworth, who lives in Folkestone, was a dairy farmer between 1970 and 2001.

He said: "The dairy industry does have a future in Kent and across the country because the demand for dairy products will always be high."

"There will be ups and downs so there needs to be top-class production standards, and if there are then I think the future will be bright."

Cathedral celebration will honour a joining of forces

THE Lord Lieutenant's Civic Service will take place at Rochester Cathedral tomorrow.

It is being held in the morning with a lunch reception to follow.

Allan Willett, the current holder of the post, has adopted a theme for the year called Mosaic of Communities in Kent.

This will celebrate cohesion among people and organisations across the county.

The service will be attended by civic dignitaries, councillors, magistrates and members of the emergency services.

A selection of people from the voluntary sector, as well as education and healthcare groups, have also been invited.



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Top TV chef backs our campaign

■ BY CHRIS BRITCHER

CELEBRITY chef Richard Phillips has thrown his weight behind the KOS Media 2009 campaign.

The star of such cooking shows as Ready Steady Cook, Step Up To The Plate and Too Many Cooks has endorsed our campaign to encourage readers to insist on locally produced food and drink.

Mr Phillips, 37, who lives near Leeds Castle and runs restaurants in Tenterden, Aylesford and Tunbridge Wells, says buying locally – and from our website www.foodforkent.co.uk – delivers not only great taste and great value, but plays a crucial role in boosting the local economy.

He said: "There is no-one who flies the flag for Kent more than me. I always source as much as I can locally and use local people as much as I can. We've filming two new TV series and I'm trying to get my local suppliers involved in that too, which will create opportunities, and jobs too, I hope."

"If we can put money in local producers' pockets, they will invest in their farms. And if their farms get bigger and better, they produce a better product. I wish all the producers success. Onwards and upwards."

Mr Phillips is no stranger to Kent, having been born and bred in the Medway towns. At 16 he moved to Broadstairs, where he attended catering college.

Moving to London while still a teenager, he trained under the Roux brothers, becoming the youngest commis chef at Le Gavroche. He then became Marco Pierre White's head chef for six years, in the process opening seven of his restaurants.

In 2001 he decided to branch out on his own and heralded his return to Kent with the opening of Thackeray's in Tunbridge Wells – an eatery whose reputation for fine-dining has spread across the county. Since then The Hengist in Aylesford has been added to his roster and, most recently, his latest venture – and the first to take his name – Richard



FINE DINING: Richard has three restaurants in Kent and knows first hand the quality of this county's produce

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KOS Media, publisher of this newspaper, has teamed up with a host of local suppliers – to deliver the best quality food and drink.

Locally sourced in Kent, wherever possible, the site offers a one-stop shop for the best meat, fish, drink, vegetables bread and fruit the Garden of England can offer.

Simply browse our huge range of fresh products at your leisure and then select a delivery time. Before you know it, a box packed full of nutritious, fresh, aromatic, great tasting and great value produce will be at your door.

In fact, you'll find overall, taken like-for-like, our prices are so competitive, you'll often find you SAVE on buying the equivalent items in the supermarket.



And you'll know that every penny you spend is directly supporting local suppliers and producers – supporting jobs and communities, as well as the rural heritage on which our county is built.

• So join the growing number of shoppers buying their weekly food and drink by logging-on today to www.foodforkent.co.uk.

Phillips at Chapel Down, Tenterden. He is also thoroughly committed to sourcing local produce for all his restaurants.

He said: "Local producers have raised their game. Years ago, supermarkets would swallow them up, but then spit them out, too. I

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think local producers decided enough was enough and have been more creative and looked for other places to sell their produce. As a result, the quality has rocketed."

He says during the winter months his menu will be 25-40 per cent Kent produce, reaching anything up to 75 per cent during the peak summer months.

As part of KOS Media's Buy Local Produce campaign, we have launched the website www.foodforkent.co.uk, teaming up with local producers of fruit, vegetables, meat, fish and drink to provide a one-stop shop for all your family's shopping needs.

Mr Phillips said: "If you buy local, you're buying in-season food – and if you buy in-season it's going to be cheaper. It will be in abundance, it's a better quality and it doesn't take as much work to get it to the perfect stage. The key thing is flavour – it hasn't taken a lot of time getting to your table."

"And I can buy it cheaper, which means I can roll that over to the customer. So better quality, better flavour and right behind that is better value for money."

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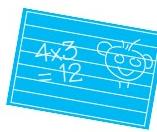
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BREAK TIME

MP's student pride

YOUNG adults in Sittingbourne and Sheppey are signing up for university courses at double the national average, new statistics have shown.

The figures, announced in Parliament, show the number of students entering higher education has jumped by 50 per cent in the last decade, with 345 starting courses in 2007, compared with 230 in 1997.

Nationally, 25 per cent more young people started higher education in the same period. Local MP Derek Wyatt said: "I was very proud when I saw these figures. A decade ago, many teens would not have dreamt of going to university, but the Government and the teaching profession have worked hard to improve the quality of teaching and the self-esteem and aspirations of students."

"Now we are seeing the pay-off – a generation of motivated, confident and intelligent young people who will go out into the world and make us proud.

"With the Sheppey Academy opening in September, I am confident our students will keep achieving more."

■ BY NICK AMES

STUDENTS were swept off their feet during a visit by council road cleaners as part of Environment Day earlier this month.

The visit to Sittingbourne Community College was aimed at pupils from years seven to 11 and allowed them to see how our streets are kept clean.

A school official said the sweepers were entertaining, knowledgeable and related well to the students, who were attentive and genuinely interested.

Glenys Webb, a teaching assistant, said: "Our students are lucky to be given the opportunity to see life from all angles."

Chris Jewell, assistant headteacher said: "The students were curious to know more about how the sweeper operator manages to use the vehicle in busy roads. We had no idea the sweeper could cover a 6ft-wide path in a single run.

"The visit brought our environmental study morning alive and put the consequences of littering into perspective."

The visit proved popular with both staff and students, with one year eight pupil commenting: "It was amazing seeing the sweeper up so close and realising how much rubbish it can collect in just one day."

"It really made me think about when I have dropped something without thinking – it all adds up and makes a massive amount to have to deal with."

Swale has been recognised for its clean streets by independent assessors who surveyed the borough's towns and villages.

Environment Day was founded in 1972 by the UN and is commemorated every year.

The aim is to increase awareness of environmental issues and promote and encourage action to safeguard the planet's future.

Events organised to celebrate the day range from recycling campaigns to bicycle rallies. Schools can get involved in many ways, including essay and poster competitions and tree planting.

It is run in conjunction with the global eco-schools programme, which encourages pupils and teachers to come up with fun, eco-friendly projects to help make their school a more pleasant place to be and reduce its impact on the environment.



IN THE CAB: A community college student learns about how the borough's road sweepers keep the streets of Swale clean

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Bringing back breakfast

BREAKFAST may be the most important meal of the day, but most of us still skip it and go for unhealthy choices.

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Breakfast is vital for energy and concentration levels and this healthy option is an inexpensive, comforting and convenient way to kick start the day.

Warburtons' deliciously soft classic white Toastie loaf is the perfect accompaniment for the humble boiled egg.

It's ideal for toasting and even better for dunking! What's more, the large loaves are wrapped in wax paper to ensure all the freshness and taste is sealed in from the moment it's baked.

Boiled eggs and toasted soldiers are an incredibly healthy way to start the day. Bread is an important source of dietary fibre, low in sugar, fortified with calcium and it contains vitamins such as folic acid and iron.

Eggs are relatively low in saturated fat, making them a healthy choice for the whole family.

They're also a great source of choline, which



is often linked with keeping your brain in tip top condition.

To celebrate the nation's soft spot for boiled eggs and toasted soldiers, Warburtons is offering one reader the chance to win a luxury breakfast hamper including a classic Warburtons Toastie loaf, a chromed toast rack, egg cups and an assortment of breakfast essentials including English Breakfast Tea, marmalades and jams.

Your perfect breakfast hamper will also

include a selection of family board games to challenge the whole family's brain power.

To be in with a chance of winning, simply answer the following question:

White bread is a good source of which of the below?

A) Cheese B) Chocolate C) Calcium

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Khan's raw firepower

With Amjad Khan part of the England set up, let's hope the selectors don't ruin him as they have done so many players in the past.

I remember when over-coaching resulted in Graham Dilley losing much of his fire and venom when he returned to play for the county, so it is with alarm that I hear some people in the game's hierarchy saying his action is a bit jerky.

Does this mean they will try to smooth out his technique?

If so, it will no doubt render him far less effective as he tries to develop a model action which has no pace or swing when the ball is released.

The best thing coaches can do is refine what talent they have spotted in a player to make him be selected in the first place.

Wholesale changes will ensure the player loses the ability he has got.

Nigel Harris, via email

Tasers reduce danger

I had to write after reading the letter from Chris Barnes in last week's Yoursrale.

The ongoing debate about tasers and their usage by Kent Police is an interesting one and most people seem firmly against them.

But what if an officer is facing the real prospect of injury? Surely a stun gun is a better bet than a truncheon and a set of handcuffs.

Our police are still almost unique

in the world as not carrying guns as a matter of routine.

Sadly, the world is getting to be a more violent place. So if they are to be protected, these non-lethal weapons are as good an idea as any.

Maurice Day, by email

A waste of resources

For more than a decade councils and other non-job government agencies have let us down badly, without paying collective or personal penalties.

Anachronistic committee-based institutions such as the Police Authority, local councils and the civil service are virtually unregulated and unaccountable to taxpayers.

There are innumerable safe havens for overpaid bureaucrats who are part of the problem, not the solution. Their allies-in-inefficiency are incompetent or complacent regulators, of little worth.

The Healthcare Commission is a disgrace, in my opinion, as is its paymaster the Department of Health.

They are insatiable cash-gobblers, all of them. Can't we cull inept institutions, clip their wings, and freeze not only business rates but end punishing surcharges, beginning with council tax?

It is ironic that less gainfully-employed have large numbers of children when they are not even supporting themselves. It has never been a fair world, but the indignity heaped on taxpayers is getting unbearable.

Rita Crootendorst, by email

BHF in the running

I am writing to encourage your readers to join me, Phoebe Thomas, in getting fit and active this spring, by signing up to take part in an event for the British Heart Foundation.

On April 26 I'll be joining the BHF Heart Runners team at the Flora London Marathon. I'm determined to finish the course and help support the nation's heart charity, so I'm working hard to fit my training around filming for Holby City.

I'll be running for a cause close to my heart, because heart disease runs in my family. My grandfather died of a heart attack and my father suffers from high cholesterol, which is a big risk factor.

Taking part in an event is a great way to get fit and have fun.

By choosing to support the BHF you'll also be doing your bit to raise funds to help beat heart disease.

So, if you've already secured your own place in the London Marathon, why not join me on the BHF Heart Runners team?

Or, if you don't feel quite ready for a marathon, the BHF has a host of running, cycling and walking events for all abilities in 2009.

You can even sign up to take part in another event, such as the Great North Run, for the BHF. To find out more, visit bhf.org.uk/events or call 0844 477 1181.

Phoebe Thomas, actress, by email

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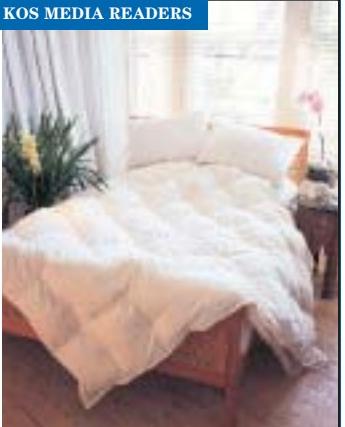
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The 9 tog is ideal for spring or autumn, whilst the 4.5 tog is all you will need for summer. Button the two together to give 13.5 togs to keep you warm in the coldest winter weather. They have feather-proof 100% piped cotton cambric covers and are filled with soft, light and luxurious white duck feather and down which should last much longer than similarly priced man-made fibres. They have a square pocket design to keep the filling in place and 10-year guarantee.

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And why not add some luxurious pillows?

Duck Feather and Down Pillows (Code 2013) are only £24.99 a pair, saving £20 off the rrp, or Duck Down Pillows (Code 2307) at £49.99 saving £60 on rrp

To order this product (code 7575) visit
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KOS MEDIA READER OFFER

Evolution II manual carpet sweeper

A must have for every home Ewbank have been producing non-electric carpet sweepers for over a century and their products are still regarded as the best in the world.

This Evolution II manual carpet sweeper is no exception. Just as you would expect, it is lightweight and easy to use. It needs no electricity and is an easy and convenient way to clean your carpets and floors at a moment's notice.



Evolution II has two height settings for cleaning both carpet and hard floors and an extra wide 23.5cm sweeping path with a long coated steel handle that lies flat for cleaning under furniture.

The long life natural bristle brush efficiently sweeps up crumbs and dirt left behind by children and pets and the large capacity dustpan is easy to empty. Other features include a soft furniture guard and it also automatically cleans its own brushes. The Evolution II is available in silver for £29.99 and makes a perfect companion for your vacuum cleaner.

Online Price: £29.99

To order this product visit
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yourleisure

Building up the laughter

Ricky Tomlinson to share the stage with Jim Royle

LAUGHTER SHOW

Thursday, April 2, and
Friday, June 12
Orchard Theatre, Dartford, and
Woodville Halls, Gravesend



POPULAR comedian and actor Ricky Tomlinson brings his new Laughter Show to Kent this season.

A sure-fire antidote to the credit crunch, the man behind larger-than-life characters Jim Royle and Mike Bassett will be presenting an evening of big laughs. Joining him for the show, which runs for more than two hours, will be three other acts ready to cheer audiences in these recession-hit times.

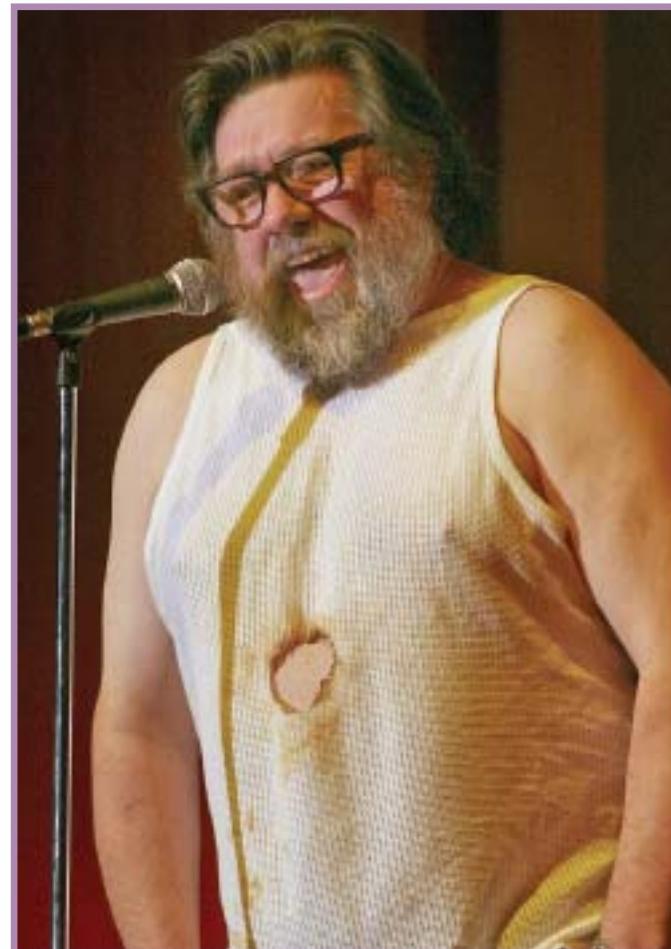
Former Coronation Street and Emmerdale actor Tony Barton will be appearing, along with The Comedians star Eddie Archer and comedy rock band Black Onyx, which has performed in Rock With Laughter.

Tomlinson, 69, is one of Liverpool's best-known residents and has been a familiar figure on our television screens for nearly 30 years. But his early life was a world away from the glamour of the entertainment business, with a childhood marked by poverty. He was the son of a baker and his mother held down three jobs to help keep the family afloat.

Early on he hoped to become a professional footballer, but turned down a trial at Scunthorpe United to focus on playing the banjo in Liverpool's pubs and clubs. After getting married and moving to Wrexham, he found work in the construction industry and this would lead to his involvement with trade union politics.

In 1972 he became involved with the builders' strike, organising flying pickets and refusing to testify against his fellow strikers in court. Along with Des Warren, he was convicted of conspiracy charges and sentenced to two years in prison, but Tomlinson has always protested his innocence. He is still campaigning to clear his name and that of his fellow defendants.

During his time in prison Tomlinson developed a love of classical music and discovered socialist theory. Blacklisted by the building trade, on his release he became an entertainer and theatrical agent. His



VARIETY SHOW: As well as three support acts, Ricky Tomlinson will also be performing as popular characters Jim Royle and Mike Bassett during his Laughter Show

life changed forever in 1980 when one of his stage routines was spotted by director Alan Bleasdale, who offered Tomlinson a role in his acclaimed TV series Boys From The Blackstuff.

He went on to appear in the Jim Allen play United Kingdom and Ken Loach's film Riff Raff, though his best-known character during the 80s was trade unionist Bobby Grant in Channel 4 soap Brookside.

In 1998 he was reunited with his Brookside screen wife, Sue Johnston, to play the patriarch of The Royle Family. Written by Caroline Aherne

and Craig Cash, the BBC sitcom established Jim Royle as one of the most iconic characters in British comedy history.

He will be hosting part of the show as Jim and will also be appearing as fictitious football manager, Mike Bassett, the eponymous star of the 2001 comedy film.

To book tickets for the Orchard Theatre show, call 01322 220000 or visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk. Tickets for the Woodville Halls date are available on 01474 337774 or from www.woodvillehalls.com. The show is not suitable for under-18s.

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TOM PALMER

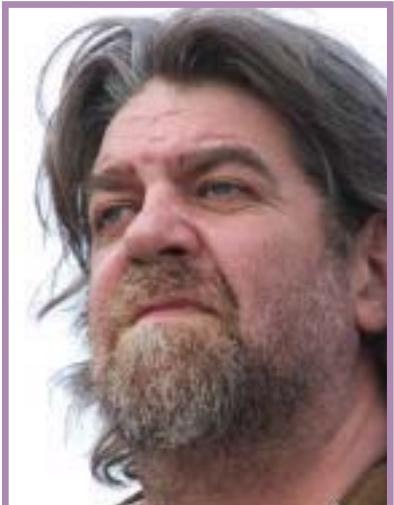
Wednesday, April 1
The Chimney Boy, Faversham

A MODERN day troubadour brings his entertaining songs to Faversham Folk Club next week.

Tom Palmer is a Yorkshireman who has travelled the world and brought home his experiences in the form of songs. His latest album, Kickin' Back, was written on the jungle-fringed beaches of Penang and the South China Sea, later recorded in Kent. He spent time roaming through Asia after undertaking a nine-month tour of Australia and the tracks tell stories of love, lust, wild nights and crazy experiences.

As a teenager living in Pontefract, Palmer was inspired to become a musician by Bob Dylan and Eric Burdon. He would coach his friends in the guitar by speaking the lyrics, which led to him becoming the band's singer.

While working as a chef, he supplemented his income singing in the hotel bar, impressing the guests with his deep vocals and masterly guitar. More professional work followed until, with his touring band, he played to thousands at Glastonbury and the



Cambridge Folk Festival. The concert starts at 8.30pm and tickets cost £5 for members and £6 for non-members. For more details call 01795 423674.

JACQUI DANKWORTH

Saturday, March 28
Gulbenkian Theatre,
Canterbury

JAZZ fans should not miss the chance to see music royalty when Jacqui Dankworth performs.

The undisputed 'Princess of Jazz' has an impressive pedigree, as the daughter of Dame Cleo Laine and Sir John Dankworth. She had always been drawn to the idea of becoming an entertainer, but did not become a singer straightaway.

A successful period as an actress with the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre, was followed by leading roles in West End musicals. She then decided to focus on a recording career. First touring Hawaii, Hong Kong and Indonesia with her brother Alec's quintet, before working on a song cycle with award-winning jazz compos-



er and saxophonist Tim Garland, along with singers Norma Winstone and Christine Tobin.

Since then she has gone on to become one of the finest singers of her generation and is taking her latest

show, which features jazz, soul, folk and blues influences, on tour.

The concert starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £18/£16. To book call 01227 769075 or visit www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk.

CHRISTOPHE GODIN

Friday, March 27
Penny Theatre, Canterbury

FRENCH guitar hero Christophe Godin is making a one-off visit to Canterbury later this week.

Considered by some to be France's best guitarist, Godin (pictured, right) is renowned for his sense of humour, virtuosic guitar skills and the energetic performances that reflect his eccentric personality. A household name in his home country, Godin has begun to make his mark on British music lovers after attracting press from guitar magazines.

Godin played in several bands before breaking through in 1995 with Temple, whose album was distributed in France to a positive reception. He went on to form the Môrgibl Trio with Ivan Rougny and Jean-Pierre Frelézeau and another trio, Gnô, with Gabriel Vegh and Peter Puke.

His first solo project, Christophe Godin's Metal Kartoon, has been touring since 2004 and he is also a guitar teacher and writer.

Also on the bill is local guitarist Dudley Ross (pictured, left), who has known Godin for two years and is delighted to be bringing him to Canterbury.

The gig, which is for over-18s, starts at 8pm and tickets cost £5/£4.



SWALE LEISURE

Sing along this spring as the choir entertains

CELEBRATE the season with a Springtime Singalong at Doddington Village Hall on Saturday.

Cantiana Choir begins its new season with a concert of old favourites and popular show tunes. The event starts at 3pm and tickets, at £6, are available from Doddington Service Station and by calling 01795 886847. Proceeds go to the church window restoration fund.

Independently good music with covers gig

FROM Muse to Metallica, Where's My Thing? cover a range of hits from popular rock and indie artists.

The band will be at the Four Horseshoes in Graveney on Sunday, starting at 5pm. To find out more about the band visit their website at www.wheresmything.co.uk.

For more information about the venue call the pub on 01795 532095.

Mayor's charity show to have the X-Factor

X-FACTOR finalist Ben Mills will perform in Sittingbourne on Friday.

He will take to the stage at the Wyvern Hall in the Swallows Leisure Centre, Central Avenue, at Swale Mayor Alan Willicombe's concert in aid of the RNLI, Young Carers and Demelza House children's hospice. The concert starts at 8pm. Tickets cost £10. For more information call 01795 417426.

There's still some time to claim a free day out

PEOPLE all over the county will be enjoying a great attraction for free on Saturday with the Kent Big Day Out.

The event is giving away more than 17,000 free tickets to some of Kent's top destinations, and there could still be time to claim your free day out, so pop into your local visitor information centre or see www.kentbigdayout.co.uk to see if any tickets are still available.

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25TH ANNIVERSARY

Wednesday, April 1
Historic Dockyard, Chatham

VISITORS are invited to join in the celebrations next week as Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust celebrates its 25th anniversary.

There will be a variety of birthday activities going on at the Dockyard next Wednesday, including a specially commissioned 25-gun salute at noon.

PAM AYRES

Friday, March 27
Central Theatre, Chatham

ENJOY the lyrical wit of Pam Ayres when she brings her unique stories and poems to Medway this week. For more than 30 years, Ayres has been delighting audiences and readers with her hilarious and witty take on life. In her latest show, she presents works from her bestselling books along with new material, demonstrating once again her ability to capture the humour of life in verse.

Ayres shot to fame on Opportunity Knocks in 1975, wowing the judges and audience with her smart, funny

Find out all about the Trust's work and achievements in a special exhibition being staged on the No 3 Covered Slip. Using photographs from the Trust's collection, the exhibition explores the Dockyard's past, present and future and the way in which it has been transformed into a thriving museum and community.

Toasting the Trust in traditional style with a glass of bubbly or juice and a slice of delicious birthday cake on

the mezzanine floor of Slip 3. The Dockyard's attractions include three historic warships – the Victorian sloop HMS Gannet (pictured), Second World War Destroyer HMS Cavalier and Cold War submarine HMS Ocelot.

Tickets cost £14/£11.50 for adults, £9.50 for children and £39.50 for families. The Dockyard is open from 10am to 6pm daily. For more information call 01634 823807 or visit the website at www.chdt.org.uk.

poems. Since then she has achieved incredible success, selling more than two and a half million books and taking her one-woman show all over the world.

Schoolchildren around the globe find her poems in their textbooks, while radio listeners can often hear her broadcasting on BBC Radio 4 programmes Just A Minute, Quote Unquote and Loose Ends. The third series of her own show, Ayres on the Air, will be broadcast later this year.

An Evening With Pam Ayres starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £17.50/£16.50. To book call the box office on 01634 338338 or visit www.medway.gov.uk/theatre booking.



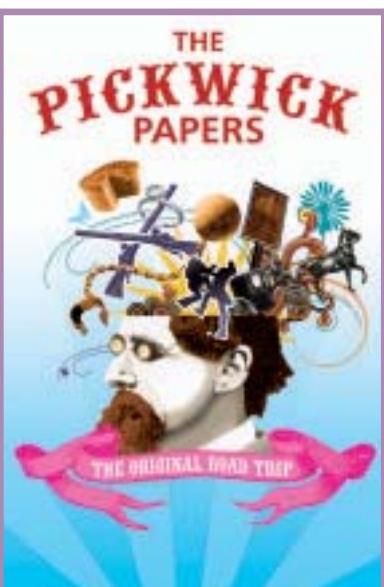
THE PICKWICK PAPERS

Saturday, March 28
Dickens World, Chatham

MISTAKEN identity, duels and bribery are some of the highlights of The Pickwick Papers. Charles Dickens' classic story about the adventures of Samuel Pickwick and his colourful band of friends is being staged in the perfect setting of the Dickens World courtyard. Presented by European Arts Company, based at Maidstone's Hazlitt Theatre, and Rhondda Cynon Taff, it is an inventive, physical and funny show that is sure to keep the audience entertained.

As Samuel travels the countryside with the other members of the Pickwick Club the misadventures of Alfred Jingle frequently land him in trouble. From Jingle's elopement with the spinster Aunt Rachael of Dingley Dell Manor to Pickwick's own trouble with his landlady, there are plenty of incidents to keep the band of friends on their toes.

The performance starts at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £10 for adults and £5 for children. Book at www.dickensworld.co.uk or call 01634 890421.



SWALE LEISURE

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Nothing Wicked about school's new production

STEP into a captivating world of witches and magic with the Edge Theatre School's latest production.

The Wizard and I is based on the hit West End musical Wicked and can be seen at the Avenue Theatre. Performances start at 7pm on Saturday, and 2pm and 6pm on Sunday. Tickets cost £6/£5. To book call the box office on 01795 471140.

Experience specialist advice for your big day

ENGAGED couples can find inspiration for their day at The Wedding Experience.

The wedding fair is being held at the Hempstead House Hotel in London Road, Bapchild, this weekend, giving couples the chance to meet 25 specialists in the area. The event will run from 10.30am to 3.30pm on Sunday and admission is free. See www.wedding-experience.co.uk or call 01795 844449.

There's still some time to claim a free day out

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yourswaremusic

Lounge line-up made of strong Scruff this year



IN THE MIX: DJ Mr Scruff will perform a six-hour slot at the Canterbury three-dayer

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

TEA-MAKING cartoonist DJ Mr Scruff is among the star names confirmed for this year's Lounge on the Farm festival.

The criminally cult DJ, whose animated offerings are screened alongside his DJ sets, has signed up to play a six-hour slot at the Canterbury three-dayer's closing night.

Mr Scruff joins the likes of Dan Le Sac vs Scroobius Pip, DJ Format and The James Taylor Quartet on the first version of the LOTF bill, which will be slowly added to in the coming weeks and months.

LOTF organiser Matt Gough said this summer's offering was already looking good.

He said: "We are excited to announce the first batch of acts that will be partying on the farm with us this summer.

"Already this year the line-up is shaping up to be the best we've ever had at Merton Farm.

"We're talking to some

huge acts for the cowshed this summer, but couldn't wait any longer to tell everyone about the quality of music we already have lined up for the tents this year. Roll on July.

"Highlights in our eyes are the six-hour Mr Scruff set for Sunday, the return of DJ Format, our absolutely incredible news on the return of 'Canterbury Sound' with Gong & Steve Hillage, The Invisible, Wild Beasts, Wave Pictures for the sheep-dip... Oh to hell with it, we're excited about each and every one of these acts we've confirmed, and hope that you are too."

Lounge on the Farm, now in its fourth year, will once again take place in the glorious surrounds of Merton Farm, running from Friday July 10 to Sunday July 12.

Last year's sell-out festival saw hundreds of top bands and artists perform across six stages, ranging from the Cow Shed to the Sheep Dip.

The line-up boasted the likes of Art Brut, The Coral, New York Dolls, Black Kids and Mystery Jets.

• For more information and to buy early-bird tickets visit www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk.

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Low Time play Pigskin at Orange street music club in Canterbury



Kayley performing Chasing Dreams



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- 3 Shelta - Lets Talk (From Bexley)
- 4 The Semantics - Soho-Nympho (Gillingham)
- 5 Euston - In My Headlights (from Deal)

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A taste of the Orient

■ Yoons

ONE of the foremost Asian eateries in Medway, Yoons has a satisfied customer base ranging far across the county.

A successful Chinese, Malaysian and Thai restaurant, it has dishes tailor made to suit the tastes of fans of a variety of foods from the Orient.

Live entertainment takes place most Thursdays so set meals are off the menu. But at all other times they can be enjoyed along with the extensive range of a la carte dishes.

The venue is one of the best in the area when it comes to style, presentation, ambience and food quality.

Added to that are excellent prices which make for a winning combination across the board.

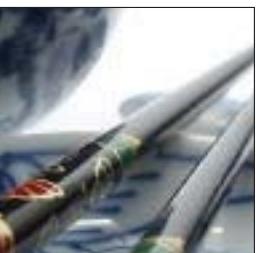
An eat as much as you like menu for lunchtimes is very popular with a price of £14.50 per head allowing diners to sample a wide range of exotic food.

Peter Jenkins who runs the premises will play the bagpipes to serenade diners on special occasions, such as birthdays.

The restaurant has a great following among members of the local Chinese community – not least because the chef is Chinese himself and has an amazing range of creations from his home country.

Local community groups are frequent visitors and best selling dishes include crispy aromatic duck, Mongolian lamb, beef rendang – Malay style – curry and Assam king prawn.

Peter said: "I feel it says something that we have so many Chinese people who want



to eat at our restaurant. I can see what customers want whether it be from Chinese, Thai or Malaysian food."

Yoons is open from noon to 12.45pm and 6pm till late from Mondays to Saturdays and from 1pm to 10pm on Sundays.

CHEF RECOMMENDS

The See Ho

Minted lamb shank, traditional rustic pies (venison and mushroom, steak and stilton, chicken, ham and leek and steak and mushroom), skate wing with blackened butter and capers are just some of the delicious meals available. Telephone: 01474 822386.

The Village

Sunday lunch is the busiest day of the week, with a great carvery selection and Wii entertainment for the children. Pass the day away and when lunch is done grab a good coffee from Starbucks or retire to Victory pub. Telephone: 01622 672200.

Yoons

Start your meal with four skewers of satay king prawn, followed by Mongolian lamb with lettuce wrap before a main course of beef rendang Malaysian curry with egg fried rice. Telephone: 01634 409090.

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Page 40 

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Spring fever

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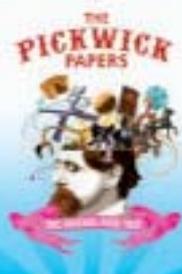


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European Arts The Pickwick Papers

Friday 27 March 7.45pm



Cleverly adapted from the comic novel by Charles Dickens, The Pickwick Papers is a highly physical and inventive piece of entertainment featuring a versatile cast of six actors familiar from stage and screen.

Tickets £13.70
Concs £11.80

Booking Office: 01227 769075
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Cinema Fri 27 March – Thur 2 April



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Fri – 6.20pm & 8.50pm, Sat – 8.50pm, Sun – 6.20pm,
Mon – 6.20pm, Tue – Thur – 6.50pm
- **Inkheart PG**
Sat – 6.20pm
- **I've Loved You So Long**
(Il y a longtemps que je t'aime) 12A
Sun – 2.50pm
- **Franklyn 15**
Mon – 9.20pm

Booking Office: 01227 769075
Online bookings: www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk

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Red Herring crinkled shirt, price £22

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Soul Cal T-shirt, price £16.99

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Grand Prix T-shirt, price £25

Picture: JAMES McCAGUE



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DEBENHAMS



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DEBENHAMS
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reverse print shirt, price £30

**SWALE SHOPPING****Prepare to be pestered
for more trading cards**

IF the child in your life has been collecting Match Attax football trading cards then brace yourself for a renewed wave of pestle power.

Topps, the company behind the 40 packs has just unleashed Match Attax Extra – a new range which adds to the 2008/09 collection which are doing the rounds of playgrounds across the county.

The packs include the latest signings and new limited edition, man of the match and 100 Club cards.

**Write to bread makers
and claim some dough**

BAKERS Warburtons will be handing out dough to good causes.

Launching its 2009 What Does It Mean To You? initiative, the company is inviting Kent charities to tell them why their cause should receive a contribution. Donation amounts start from £250. To apply write to Warburtons Charity Fund c/o Clarion Communications, The Griffin Building, 83 Clerkenwell Road, London EC1R 5AR. For more details see www.trustwarburtons.co.uk.

**Help save the animals
with your big designs**

YOUNG trendsetters could have their T-shirt design distributed at the Red List Live festival in June.

Students are invited to submit designs inspired by the theme Endangered Animal. The winning shirt will be produced in an exclusive short run at the festival at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, near Hythe.

The closing date is April 20, for details about how to enter visit www.redlistlive.com.

**Even the youngest of
bodies need protecting**

EVEN the youngest skin can benefit from natural care with The Body Shop's new baby range.

Buriti Baby is named after its key ingredient, the oil of the South American Buriti tree, which naturally softens and protects delicate babies' skin. The products are also rich in beta-carotene and pro-vitamin , blended with other naturally derived ingredients. Products include shampoo (£6) and body wash (£7). To find out more see www.thebodyshop.co.uk.

**Turn off the lights to
show your concern**

GET cosy by candlelight and help tackle climate change by taking part in the World Wildlife Fund's Earth Hour 2009.

The charity is asking people to turn off their lights for an hour at 8.30pm on Saturday to save energy and to make the statement that they are concerned about climate change. Bluewater shopping centre will be taking part by switching off all non-essential lighting.

For more information about the event go online at www.wwf.org.uk.

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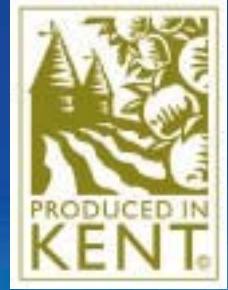
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YOUR TV REVIEW



NO LAUGHING MATTER: Horne and Corden fail to hit the spot with their new BBC sketch show

IT'S testing times for television.

With money on everybody's mind those who make our shows on both sides of the Atlantic will likely have to get real and make cut backs like everyone else.

Channel Four might have to stop refitting the Big Brother house each year and set it in a barn; the BBC may axe Eastenders (we can all dream); and ITV will probably cut back on its original drama output.

Well, at least it's not all bad news.

It's at times like this that broadcasters will likely turn to their established talents to help them navigate the crisis – the 'bankers' as it were.

So, the Beeb's current young guns, Matthew Horne and James Corden, have been dispatched into battle.

Carrying the flag of fresh new comedy with hopes in the boardrooms of Broadcasting House high, one would assume.

And the result? Well, what can I say except for, oh dear? Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear.

As sketch shows go this one seems to have drawn up a suicide pact with Carol Thatcher's presenting career.

It's woeful stuff, truly it is.

James Corden's schtick seems to revolve around 'I'm fat therefore I'm funny' and if the laughs don't come at all (which happens often) it's out with

■ BY TOM BETTS

HORNE AND CORDEN

BBC Three, 10.30pm, Tuesday

the huge belly, which seems to be BBC Three's current answer to a nob/fart gag. How very ingenious...

The two stars have been heavily promoting this tosh for weeks cropping up on everything from T4 to Jonathan Ross, name-dropping to their heart's content. And they're also promoting a new film – see, I told you they were everywhere.

We haven't seen this kind of manic oversell since John Barrowman released an album of smoochy covers.

It really does look like the BBC's new darlings may not be all they're cracked up to be after all and this Kathy Burke-directed attempt at comedy is not so much the sound of the penny dropping for this pair more the sound of the entire contents of a bank vault nose-diving onto the street from a 1,000-feet above.

Perhaps it is the admittance of a rather feeble TV critic who will say that I've never actually watched Gavin and Stacey, their other apparently hilarious outing, but on this evidence, I doubt I'll ever get round to it.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT

AQUARIUS

(Jan 21-Feb 19)
A SENSE of foreboding stops you taking risks. It's wise to be cautious. A enemy could be trying to ruin your reputation. The more honourable your behaviour, the harder is to take you down. It may be a good idea to change passwords, or sensitive information could be compromised.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762

PISCES

(Feb 20-Mar 20)
GOING along with the crowd could get you into trouble. Be prepared to break away from the pack if it is engaged in questionable behaviour. Yes, you may lose some friends, but it's better than losing your self-respect. Ganging up against a weaker individual is never justified.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763

ARIES

(Mar 21-Apr 20)
FLATTERY will get you everywhere, especially where authority figures are concerned. A few compliments will steer you away from trouble. There's even a chance they will ask for a date. If you've been thinking of updating your look, this would be a great week to do so.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752

CANCER

(Jun 23-Jul 23)
DON'T let another person have undue control over your life. It's time to forge a more independent future. If that means opening your own bank account, moving into a new place, or breaking ties with an abusive lover, so be it. An exciting opportunity will help you to make the changes you need.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755

LIBRA

(Sep 24-Oct 23)
TROUBLE at home could be affecting your work performance. It may be a good idea to move to a more neutral ground. Signing a legal agreement will work in your favour. You'll get generous terms for your services. Be supportive of a friend's creative plans – your opinion means a lot.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758

CAPRICORN

(Dec 22-Jan 20)
A CONTROLLING attitude will push people away. Although the prospect of letting loved ones go their own way worries you, it's essential to everybody's happiness. Resist the urge to go through somebody's belongings without their permission. Spying is a breach of trust.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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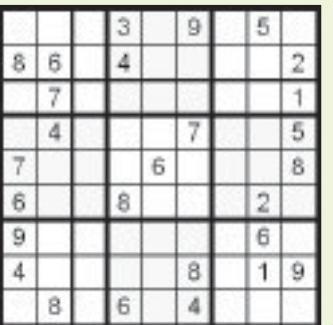
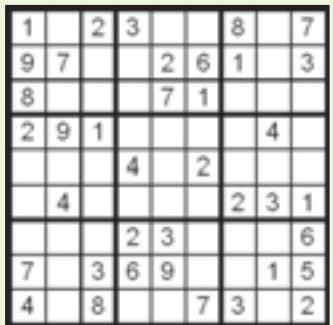
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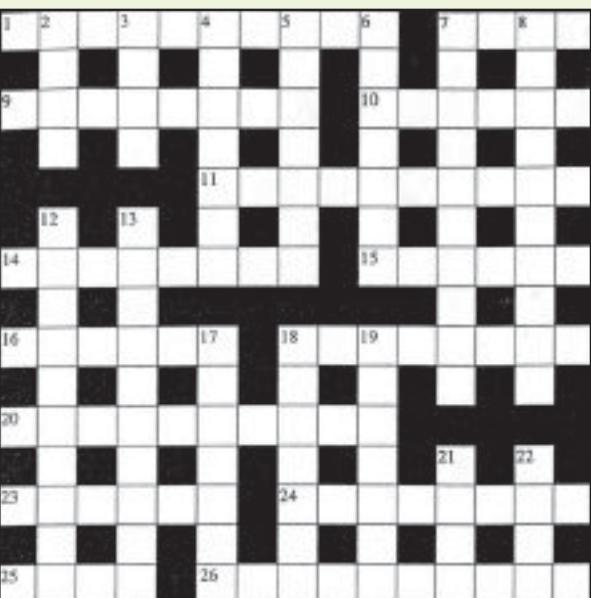
Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

EASY**MEDIUM****HARD****CRYPTIC CLUES****ACROSS**

- 1 Too much on the surface (4-3)
- 7 Question one with Penny producing wisecrack (4)
- 9 Five last another day of celebration (8)
- 10 Was there not any running water during this hard time? (3,3)
- 11 Shake gin on rickety vehicle (10)
- 14 Hesitantly follows party worker (8)
- 15 You on the 6.50 took nothing into town (6)
- 16 Despite being holey it holds water (6)
- 18 Yet aren't moved by the request (8)
- 20 One of the family included a kiss, as a result there is less tension (10)
- 23 Must have resistance inside cave (6)
- 24 Saw it had been protected again, say (8)
- 25 Wink kept contents of ditch (4)
- 26 A grouse Pam prepared was violently uncontrollable (10)

DOWN

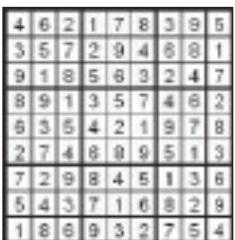
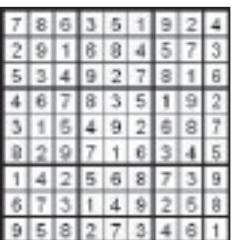
- 2 After six we get up to watch (4)
- 3 Pity about the book (4)
- 4 One remains in suspense (7)
- 5 Satellite excited starlet (7)
- 6 Man in the money has shawl (7)
- 7 On request I removed quizmaster (10)
- 8 Be servile in regatta I organised (10)
- 12 Paged reply about animal with darker spots (6-4)
- 13 Joseph in struggle to engage in conflict (4,6)
- 17 Una with more elusive charm (7)
- 18 Witty saying, note, on farm animals (7)
- 19 Nathan comes up to Indian city for figurine (7)
- 21 No charge for rebel leader in charge (4)
- 22 Ox Beelzebub took inside! (4)

SCRIBBLE HERE**QUICK CLUES****ACROSS**

- 1 Disconcerting (3-7)
- 7 Cloak (4)
- 9 Mother-country (8)
- 10 Fly (6)
- 11 Cube (10)
- 14 Needed (8)
- 15 Cu (6)
- 16 Town in NE England (6)
- 18 Persevere (4,2,2)
- 20 Top designs (anag.) (10)
- 23 Survey (6)
- 24 Stinging insect (8)
- 25 River in NE England (4)
- 26 Burdensome (10)

DOWN

- 2 Trickle (4)
- 3 One with unpolished manners (4)
- 4 Tutor (7)
- 5 Linked (7)
- 6 Vivid (7)
- 7 Easy task (6,4)
- 8 Producing disease (10)
- 12 To some extent (10)
- 13 Enforced isolation (10)
- 17 Directory of prominent people (4,3)
- 18 Tomato sauce (7)
- 19 Authorise (7)
- 21 Greek god (4)
- 22 Eastern European (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS**SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No78****EASY****MEDIUM****HARD****CRYPTIC SOLUTION No78**

ACROSS: 1 Frankfurter 9 Abduct 10 Braille 12 Rotorua 14 Seizure 15 Jungle juice 16 Tit 17 Now 19 Square-dance 22 Overman 23 Entrust 24 Surname 25 Craver 26 Mystery tour. **DOWN:** 2 Ribston 3 Neutral 4 Fit 5 Robespierre 6 Examine 7 Faunt 8 Seventeen 11 Trojan horse 13 Adjournment 18 Wherry 19 Summary 20 Detract 21 Nouveau 25 Car.

QUICK SOLUTION No79

ACROSS: 1 Offputting 7 Cape 9 Homeland 10 Water 11 Hexagonal 14 Required 15 Copilot 16 Throw 18 Keep it 20 21 22 **DOWN:** 2 Querulous 7 Who's who 18 Kentish 19 Play 8 Patriotic 12 Relatively 13 Dealer 5 Indaxed 6 Gripe 7 Chills 14 Tame 26 Oppressor 27 Review 24 Horsefly 25 Singpost 22 Retiree 16 Hesitation 24 Horsefly 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 80 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

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PROPERTY NEWS

Mann Countrywide on agency award shortlist

MANN Countrywide is celebrating being shortlisted as a finalist for a national estate agency competition.

The winner of each region and the national categories of the Estate Agent and Letting Agent Awards are decided by customers – buyers and sellers who have used Mann Countrywide services.

The Maidstone-based estate agent has been listed as one of the best in the South East and is in the running for the regional and national awards.

The awards will be presented by Phil Spencer, from Channel 4's Location, Location show, at the Marriott Hotel in London's Mayfair, on April 8.

Mr Spencer said: "This is the sixth year of the Estate Agent and Letting Agent Awards and I've enjoyed being part of the celebrations on each occasion.

"It's fantastic to see agents getting the credit they deserve after all the negative press they receive.

"Throughout the property industry there is a constant need to improve customer service and these awards go along way to help agents focus on keeping clients happy.

"After all, the most powerful marketing tool for agents is word of mouth, so customer satisfaction is key."

Sir Richard banking on Virgin Group licence

SIR Richard Branson is looking to obtain a licence for his Virgin Group to become a High Street bank and return to the mortgage market.

The billionaire entrepreneur said: "We are going to get back into the mortgage business and we will become a bank either by acquisition or by getting our own banking licence.



AMBITION: Sir Richard Branson

"You will see us become a consumer bank within the next couple of years."

Virgin, which was unsuccessful in acquiring crisis-torn Northern Rock, sold its Virgin mortgage product, Virgin One, to Royal Bank of Scotland more than five years ago.

Sir Richard wants to take advantage of the lack of confidence in existing banks, to give Virgin the chance to quickly gain a share of the market.



Top tips for clearing out your clutter this spring

CLEARING the clutter from your home can give it a new lease of life for the start of spring.

■ BY NICK AMES

Top interior designer Ceri Rocca has revealed her top tips for tackling storage issues as the days grow longer.

She said: "It's time to start thinking about that annual spring-clean, whether you're opting for a full-blown makeover, a quick lick of paint or simply just a vigorous cleaning exercise to get your house looking spick and span.

"With March 31 seen as the best day for spring-cleaning, you can make some small but significant changes to your home and lifestyle, so long as you're willing to put aside a day for some serious effort and elbow grease."

Ms Rocca said most people are hoarders and storage space is at a premium for nearly everyone. But, more often than not, people aren't maximising the potential space that goes unnoticed in the home.

She said: "As your home will be much more comfortable and run far more efficiently if things are put away, why not try some of the following ideas to help?"

These are her tips for a thorough spring clean:

- Store toys in plastic colour-coded stackable boxes with lids to differentiate the types of toys inside; or you may decide to give each child their own personal box they're responsible for to encourage them to tidy up after themselves.

- By covering open shelves with roller blinds, using a fold-up screen or ceiling-hung fabric panels as room dividers, you'll be able to hide some of that clutter and achieve more space.

- Drawer dividers are a great way of organising small items such as fashion accessories or cutlery; try Lakeland for quality space-saving products.

- Out-of-season clothes can be stored in empty suitcases or bags that are designed to fit snugly under a bed, unnoticed – your wardrobe (and partner) will thank you for it.

- To fit more into your wardrobe, plan storage that reaches all the way

to the ceiling. Stow suitcases and rarely used items on harder-to-reach upper shelves. Add hooks to the door for belts, ties and jewellery.

- If you've kept your shoe boxes, you can take a photo of each pair of shoes and stack the boxes neatly in your wardrobe with the image facing outwards so you know immediately which shoes are in which box.

- Shelving is key and inexpensive – place above doorways and in alcoves. Use small wicker baskets for the little mementoes you can't bring yourself to throw away, and simply store on the shelves.

- Use rows of hooks on walls in the hallway, kitchen and bedrooms for coats, clothes, utensils and pots and pans where possible.

- Look for furniture that serves more than one purpose, such as coffee tables with built-in drawers, side tables that also function as display cases, armoires that can be used for unsightly computer equipment, and sofas that pull-out as guest beds.



DESIGN FOR LIFE: Ceri Rocca, above, says spring is the time to clear out the clutter. Below, the clean lines of one of Ms Rocca's pristine interior designs



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MOTORS NEWS



Mini crop top lights up gloomy motor market

NEXT weekend marks the showroom debut of a car that could lighten current gloom – the Mini Convertible Mk II.

The market has waited two years longer for an all-new Mini crop top than for the hatchback – here first in Cooper (£15,995) and Cooper S (£18,995) forms.

If the original wore decapitation awkwardly, the newcomer is more harmonious with roof up or down. Prominent roll bars behind each rear seat have gone too, replaced by a single bar that extends only if a crash is imminent.



Urban Cruiser, the 'Son of RAV', is coming soon

TOYOTA launches its answer to 'townie crossovers' like the Nissan Qashqai and Kia Soul, next month.

The eye-catching Urban Cruiser uses expertise honed by the Japanese giant's experience with the RAV4 series, but notes the motor market's desire to down-size and for SUVs (sports utility vehicles) to be less obtrusive. So the Urban Cruiser is compact and uses a 1.4-litre diesel, but still looks muscular and, Toyota insists, will be 4x4... but let's not bet against a front-wheel drive model later.



Patriot's sparks Jeep revolution from inside

JEEP has clearly listened to repeated complaints about the Achilles heel of its otherwise clever bargain basement 4x4, the Patriot – poor quality interior design and finishing.

The car has an all-new instrument panel, redesigned centre console, remodelled door trim, carpeted boot floor and premium floor mats plus new sound systems. Yet prices are even more competitive than before, starting from under £15,000, which is family hatchback money for a proper off-roader.



MORE NEW THAN OLD: BMW's 1-Series Coupé is a spiritual successor to the original two-door E3 but boasts something the older car never had in the UK, an excellent diesel option

BMW's reborn classic

BMW's fortunes were founded on the 3-Series of the 1980s.

It was a beautifully understated car, styled by ruler and embellished by BMW's trademark nose – twin headlamps flanking a slatted grille and the so-called 'double kidney' centre detail. Powerful versions of that car – the E30 in BMW-speak – could be a handful, largely due to a shortish wheelbase, but it looked good inside and out.

Since then, BMW has chucked the ruler away in favour of whimsical curves and slashes; 'nouveau fans' seem to like this styling of recent generation cars while traditionalists have either bought reluctantly or shopped elsewhere.

But there is a spiritual successor to the original E30 two-door in particular – the 1-Series Coupé launched last year.

Proportions are similar, even if the design is more new than old 'Beemer' with its wheels pushed to the extremities; it is rear-driven in the BMW tradition, but there is none of the tail twitchiness of its distant predecessor – if anything, it edges more towards understeer.

This sporting nature does not come at the cost of an excessively hard ride though,

ROAD TEST BMW 1-SERIES

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

despite using run-flat tyres to free the boot from packing a spare.

It also boasts access to something the E30 never had in the UK – some of the best diesel engine options in this class.

The 120d (£21,385) is the entry model for the whole range as well as the diesels, yet powers the car to 62mph in just 7.6 seconds.

Its 123d flagship sister, as tested here, does the job in 7.0 secs; all petrol versions better that, of course, but you are still getting a sporting BMW plus diesel economy and even our 123d should average some 50mpg.

What an engine too – twin turbochargers for loads of power across the range, plus the smoothness of a petrol unit.

And it is a proper four-seater, though rear legroom is cramped and you will tire of having to re-adjust either front seat after allowing rear passengers in and out.

It comes with BMW's impressive EfficientDynamics (ED) package, delivering here and now economies and lower emissions without compromising what we can still enjoy about driving, and includes a 'stop-start' facility that cuts and smoothly re-starts the engine when stationary in traffic or at the lights.



**SEE MOTORSTV FOR
MORE ROAD TESTS
BY STEVE LOADER @
yourkenttv.co.uk**

Need a new car? Then visit www.carsforkent.co.uk



USED CAR ROUND-UP:

OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

CHRYSLER VOYAGER



COMMERCIAL and private buyers made the Voyager a big hit for Chrysler in the UK. All versions seat seven, but there is more demand for the extra luggage space of 13-inch longer 'Grand' models and those featuring Stow 'n' Go: under floor stowage that also takes the folded seats when not needed. The smooth and powerful post-2004 diesel auto is the powertrain to go for. Voyagers ride comfortably, but bulk, small wheels and vague steering make for a dull drive.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

BIG PEOPLE CARRIERS

NOT everyone can downsize due to the recession, so big people carriers are still in demand though used prices have eased, as they have done across the car market. Renault drew the 'people carrier' blueprint by launching the purpose-built Espace, but others picked up the ball and ran with it more effectively, selling more than the self-styled 'creator of automobiles'; our choices here have certainly outsold the French original. They can be bought as genuine seven-seat family motors that can cope with everything a big family will ask them to.

KIA SEDONA



NEVER mind the quality, feel the width describes the Kia Sedona (1999-2006). Replaced by a more sophisticated model, the original is a cheap, reliable and capacious used buy though the interior is tacky, safety features were not up with rivals and it feels lumpy on rural roads, though excelling as a comfy motorway muncher. The post-2002, 125bhp diesel is the engine to go for if the budget will stretch. Sliding rear doors and a big tailgate make access easy.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

FORD GALAXY



IF Renault's Espace distilled the essence of the people carrier, Ford mass-produced it. The 1995-vintage Galaxy plus VW Sharan and Seat Alhambra clones sold well through space and car-like handling. The latter pair are still going strong and should be considered if you want something later yet cannot run to the excellent post-2006 second generation Galaxy. Reliability on early 'Mark I' Galaxies is flaky so post-2000 diesels are the pick of the used crop.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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- NURSING, MEDICINE, CARE WORK
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- PRINT, PACKAGING, DISTRIBUTION
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- PUBLIC SECTOR, SOCIAL SERVICES
- RETAIL, WHOLESALE, SALES
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- TRANSPORT, LOGISTICS, AVIATION

Senior & General Appointments 36-38

Unemployment Blues

If so then we have a unique opportunity for well presented articulate candidates to train as

MARKETING EXECUTIVES

In all areas across Kent

You will be required to make house calls door to door and talk to Home Owners with a view to making appointments for a free home survey offering free advice on low cost building maintenance.

No selling involved

Field training is carried out during daylight hours initially on a part time basis between 10-2pm or 4-8pm.

Are you financially motivated, persuasive and above all up for a challenge? then

Sky's the Limit £300 - £400 weekly

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ARE YOU EARNING
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Career Opportunities

Canterbury College

Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer

Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you.

Coordinator Independent Living and Leisure Skills

09/10

7.4 hrs per week, salary starting at £27,209 pro rata per annum
One year fixed term post

Supply Lecturer Dental Nursing

S/DN

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata per annum

Supply NVQ Assessors

S/NVQ/EY
S/NVQ/PW
S/NVQ/CD

Various hours available, salary range from £18,295 - £26,232 pro rata per annum
Early Years
Playwork
Community Development

CDO/HE

Higher Education Curriculum Development Officer

08/117

37 hrs per week, salary starting at £33,858 per annum

Project Co-ordinator – College Redevelopment

08/148

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,963 per annum

Curriculum Support Assistant within the Faculty of Engineering & Construction

LS18

37 or 2 x 18.5 hrs per week, 40 weeks term time, salary starting from £18,963 pro rata per annum

Learning Support Independent Living and Leisure skills

08/140

37 hours per week, 38 weeks per year term time, salary starting at £16,914 pro rata per annum

Trainer Demonstrator Public Services

08/22

37 hrs per week, 38 weeks per year term time salary starting at £18,963 pro rata per annum

Night Cleaners

08/22

20 hrs per week, salary £6.42 per hour

.....

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- Pension & Life Assurance Scheme
- Proximity to main bus & train stations
- Close to City Centre
- Sports Hall & Gym
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Staff Discount Scheme

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 30th March 2009 at 12 noon

CLICK
www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies

CALL
01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)



European Union
European Social Fund
Investing in jobs and skills



Floating Support Workers £20,374

West Kent, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge, Malling –

Women fleeing domestic abuse (ref KFSW DAW)

West Kent – Substance misuse (ref KFSW SMW) Alcohol (ref KFSW ALW)

East Kent – Substance misuse and young people at risk (ref KFSW SM/YPE)

Floating Support Assistants £13,434

West Kent, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge, Malling –

Women fleeing domestic abuse (ref KSA DAW)

West Kent – Substance misuse, alcohol (ref KSA ALW)

East Kent – Substance misuse and young people at risk (ref KSA SM/YPE)

These challenging and rewarding roles will see you providing support using Person Centered Planning tools to people so that they can maintain their accommodation and live independently within their own homes.

Floating Support Workers will need experience of working with people from the specific client group/s for each service, knowledge of the welfare benefits system and relevant legislation. Meanwhile Support Assistants will need experience of working with vulnerable or disadvantaged people within their community, and knowledge of the welfare benefits system.

These roles will require frequent travel throughout the county.

We expect all of our staff to share our commitment to service user involvement and the importance of diversity to the organisation. Benefits include an excellent pension scheme and five weeks holiday per annum.

Carr-Gomm is committed to equal opportunities.

Download an application pack from www.carr-gomm.org.uk Alternatively email us at jobs@carr-gomm.org.uk quoting references listed above.

NO CVs accepted.

Closing date: 3 April 2009.

www.carr-gomm.org.uk

Charity No. 245698

We require

TWO TELEMARKETERS

working from home to phone customers on behalf of our clients in the motor trade, mainly early evening, £7.50 per hour, flexibility with working hours is essential.

Send your CV including a hand written covering letter to:
PO Box 680, Orpington BR6 8WS



Required for April 2009

TEACHER/INSTRUCTOR OF DANCE
(Temporary Full Time Contract for Two Terms)

A qualified teacher or Instructor of Dance is needed to work within our thriving faculty of Performing and Expressive Arts from 20th April to 17th July 2009. The Academy's facilities are outstanding with a fully equipped dance studio with sprung floor and mirrors, adjoining a state of the art drama studio and fully functioning performance theatre. This presents an exciting opportunity to work within this prestigious specialist Arts Academy.

Details and an application pack are available from our website: www.folkestoneacademy.com Alternatively, please telephone Sally Taylor on 01303 842409

Closing date: 5pm on Tuesday 31 March 2009

The Folkestone Academy is committed to the safeguarding of children. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

The Folkestone Academy, Academy Lane, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5FP • Tel: 01303 842400
Email: admin@folkestoneacademy.com

KOS Media, publisher of the award-winning Kent on Sunday, the Saturday Observer, and the YourLocal midweek titles and associated websites, has vacancies for

Distribution & Promotional staff

Part-time Weekends.

We require a number of staff across the county to assist in the distribution and promotion of our award winning titles.

The job will involve delivery to specific addresses, both business and residential, as well as assisting with various promotions in stores or at specific venues.

Good rates of pay, plus expenses.

• Please telephone Barbara or Lyndsay on 01303 817070.



Award winning publications
www.kentnews.co.uk

Career Opportunities

Sheppery College is an equal opportunities employer

Sheppery College is a satellite of Canterbury College and has been open since 1996. We offer a variety of courses in a modern and friendly learning environment and enjoy excellent rates of success.

Lecturer Administration to Level 3 and Cross College Key Skills 08/73

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata per annum

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- Pension & Life Assurance Scheme
- Proximity to main bus & train stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to Town Centre

The closing date for the above post is Monday 30th March 2009 at 12 noon

CLICK
www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies

CALL
01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)

**HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE ASSESSOR/IV REQUIRED**

Full & part time roles available. Car driver essential. Minimum two years experience at a senior level. NVQ level 3 or 4 preferred - D32, D33, D34, A1 V1 desirable. Excellent pay plus benefits. Ongoing CPD support. Excellent Team environment.



Please send CV with covering letter to www.ukelearning.com
j.fortescue@ukelearning.com or recruitment@ukelearning.com



Kings Hill Pre-School are currently looking to recruit an afternoon Key Person, Mon, Wed, Thur, Fri, 11.45am to 15.45pm.

Must be at least NVQ Level 2 in Early Years or equivalent. Closing date for applications Friday 3rd April 2009.

Please telephone Sherri or Tania on 01732 840180 or email info@kingshillpreschool.co.uk

NIGHT STAFF REQUIRED

Dementia Care Home Southborough, Kent

Night care staff required 2-3 days per week for work at care home for the elderly with dementia.

Contact Katherine: 01892 535346

The smart way to find your next job **JobsforKent.co.uk**

**Abbey Court School**

"WE GROW PEOPLE"

Abbey Court School, a 'special' school and a 'special' place to work.

We are currently looking for a...

Speech and Language Therapist

to join and enhance our high calibre team.

Medway Scale, Grade B2

£26,706 - £34,107 (Full time – term time only - pro rata)

Abbey Court School is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 4-19 with severe learning difficulties. We are looking for an enthusiastic and effective Speech and Language Therapist, with a professional, flexible approach and a good sense of humour. In essence, somebody with an interest in an educational setting and who would like to work in a school committed to enabling pupils to reach their full potential.

Working hours are 37 hours p/w, term time only. Candidates should hold a relevant Speech and Language Therapy degree/qualification. Benefits include: Local Authority pension scheme, induction training, performance management programme and Continuous Professional Development. Visits to the school are welcomed.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

For an application pack, or to make an appointment to visit, please telephone (stating the role for which you are applying):
Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent ME2 3SP (01634 338224)

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

Closing date: 1.4.09

**MidKent College**

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Hourly Paid Lecturers in Beauty Therapy Ref: SE001
Salary: £20.37 - £28.92 per hour

The College is currently looking to recruit dynamic and enthusiastic Lecturers in the Beauty Department to deliver high quality training and assessment procedures to full and part time learners. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Hourly Paid Lecturers in Hair Design Ref: SE002
Salary: £20.37 - £28.92 per hour

We are looking to recruit passionate individuals to teach assess and contribute to the development of Hair Design programmes. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and should hold or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Closing date: Friday 17 April 2009

Mid-Kent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbl.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunities employer



CUSTOMER SERVICE PERSON F/T

Our Customer Service Assistants are the control centre of the Practice.

We need a cheerful and resourceful person to join them. Someone who excels at time management (both your own and others), and who can input data, complete administrative tasks and file efficiently would be perfect. Not only that, but you would be required to take photographs and scans of our patients' eyes and help with other screening tests. You may also be given the opportunity to train as Team Leader.

Interested?

Then send your CV with a hand written letter of introduction to:
Anne O'Kane, Niall O'Kane Optometrists, 78-80 High Street, Strood, Kent ME2 4AR
Applications should be received by Saturday 4th April



NORTHFLEET SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ

Leader of Post 16 Education (or 14-19 Curriculum)

Upper or Main Spine plus TLR 1c (£8,611)

Our school is undergoing an exciting rebuild as part of Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and our approach to learning is creative and concerted, with buildings reflecting our vision.

Our Sixth Form numbers some 120 students. We work collaboratively with all our local secondary schools and North West Kent College, attracting both male and female students. Some courses and our new diplomas are shared across the Gravesham collaboration and with KS4. These include A level Media and Photography, English and Psychology through to the Business & Finance and Society Health & Development diplomas. We have a reputation for leading innovation for offering a wide and varied range of courses at all levels.

You would be leading a team of well qualified tutors and teachers to build on our current success but challenge us to move forward. Our Leader of Post 16 Education is ably supported by our Post 16 Co-Ordinator.

As a clear thinking, good team player who is innovative and enthusiastic about learning post 16 and its future development you will also be a highly qualified and leading practitioner.

General Teaching Vacancies at Northfleet School for Girls:

P.E. - History - Geography - Science - Media - English
NQT or Part time applications will be considered

For further information please contact Mrs T Davies or Mrs S Chisholm
Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent, DA11 8AQ
Northfleet School for Girls Tel: 0844 477 2525
email: personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk

Closing date for applications: Tuesday, 31 March 2009

Learn to Care www.learntocare.com

Permanent / Sessional Assessors, Kent

Learn to Care is looking for self-motivated Assessors with relevant experience and qualifications to assess **Health and Social Care** and/or **Customer Service**.

You must be a positive team member, well organised, excellent communicator, enthusiastic and resourceful. Own transport is essential as assessing is carried out at the learner's workplace.

Call 01227 265 899 (opt 3) or email r.hawking@enterprisingopps.org.uk for further information. **Deadline 9th April 2009.**



● "EXCELLENT" CPA RATING

www.digitalmaidstone.co.uk

Are you qualified, experienced, available from Monday 27th July until Friday 21st August 2009 and looking for an exciting opportunity to work on HOTFOOT Summer Play schemes?

Various positions available from Play Leaders through to Site Managers.

For a Hotfoot application pack call 01622 602555.

For further information about Hotfoot or Sports Coaching opportunities please call 01622 602222 or e-mail sportsandplay@maidstone.gov.uk or visit www.digitalmaidstone.co.uk/sports.

Closing date: For Hotfoot Wednesday 8 April 2009.

Interview dates: 17 and 21 April 2009.

Sports Coaching Opportunities: Ongoing



Tenterden & District Age Concern Day Care Centre

Age Concern Day Centre Manager – We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and experienced person to manage the day to day running and organisation of the Day Centre, which provides a variety of day care services for older people.

NVQ 3 in Care or equivalent qualification essential.

Previous experience of working with older people preferred.
Working hours – 35 hours per week
Annual leave 20 days plus statutory Bank Holidays.
Starting salary not less than £18,000.00 pa, depending on experience and qualifications.

Secretary/administrative support – We also require a flexible and adaptable person to work on a part-time basis offering secretarial and administrative support to the Age Concern Day Centre Manager and staff.

An ability to work with older people an advantage.

Working hours – 9.00 to 12.30pm Monday to Friday
Salary £8.00 per hour
Annual leave 20 days plus statutory Bank Holidays.

For details contact Nicky Tredway 01580 762882.
Tenterden & District Day Centre, Church Road, Tenterden. TN30 6AT

Closing date April 17th 2009

All appointments subject to Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks.



Brownhills Motorhomes Limited is well known and established in the UK and enjoys the status of being Britain's largest motorhome distributor boasting 6 sites of which Canterbury is one, with a portfolio that includes no less than 15 different manufacturers offering a staggering choice of 750 interior layouts. At Brownhills, we recognise that the dedication and effort of our team towards providing excellence in customer service is the reason for its success. We in turn pledge our support to staff by providing career, self-development and training opportunities.

We would like to invite you to a

Technicians Recruitment Evening

30th March from 4-8pm
Howfield Lane, Canterbury

Sales Executives Workshop Controllers (Experience essential)

Technicians

Mechanical, Electrical and PDI Technicians required to carry out servicing and parts fitting in a safe and economical manner with previous experience required at our busy workshop on the outskirts of Canterbury.

Brownhills Motorhomes offer excellent working conditions, a competitive salary, generous holidays and are committed to equal opportunities.

Howfield Lane, Chatham, Canterbury, Kent CT4 7HG

Tel 01227 738990

TEACHER OF ICT

F/T Teacher of ICT required for September 2009 to teach from KS3 to GCSE or A Level.

Buckswood (NOR 350) is a thriving independent, co-ed, day & boarding school with a strong international ethos located on the East Sussex coast.

Closing date: Friday 17 April.

For a Job Description e-mail:
wisdom@buckswood.co.uk



See www.buckswood.co.uk for a fuller picture of life at Buckswood.

TEACHER OF MATHEMATICS

F/T Teacher of Mathematics required for September 2009 to teach from KS3 to A Level.

Buckswood (NOR 350) is a thriving independent, co-ed, day & boarding school with a strong international ethos located on the East Sussex coast.

Closing date: Friday 17 April.

For a Job Description e-mail:
wisdom@buckswood.co.uk



See www.buckswood.co.uk for a fuller picture of life at Buckswood.

Saint George's Church of England School

Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS
Tel: 01474 533082
Fax: 01474 561536

HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College
11-18, Mixed, Comprehensive School

SCIENCE TECHNICIAN

**KS5 Pts 14-17 £16,793-£18,471
(pro-rata) • 21 hours per week / Term Time Only + 5 days (39 weeks)**

Applicants will need to have a good relationship with children and previous experience of working in a school laboratory or science environment. Excellent resources management skills are essential.

The appointment is subject to List 99 & CRB checks.

Contact us to request further details and an application form. Email dhariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk or visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date : Friday 3rd April 2009

Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Maidstone Road Rochester Kent ME1 3EL
Tel: 01634 844008
Email: office@sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk
Website: www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

A Specialist Voluntary Controlled School in Mathematics, Computing and Humanities. An 11-18 Boys' Grammar School of 1180 students including 300 in the co-educational Sixth Form.
'OUTSTANDING' Ofsted November 2008 – "a buzz of excitement pervades the school"

PART-TIME TEACHER OF GERMAN

An enthusiastic teacher is required to teach German for two days a week from 20th April 2009. The Modern Languages department enjoys a newly equipped language laboratory and runs trips to Germany on an annual basis.

The successful candidate will be an effective classroom practitioner and be committed to enabling all students to achieve their full potential

OFSTED 2008 commented that students have a "willingness to participate in the wide range of opportunities available to them, to show initiative and to assume responsibility". Behaviour was found to be "exemplary".

If you are interested in applying for this post, then please contact the Headteacher's PA, Mrs Jacqueline Harrison, or visit our website www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

We are committed to the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check.

Closing date for applications:
Wednesday 25th March 2009



CCL LABEL

ASHFORD, UNITED KINGDOM

CCL Label is the leading global supplier of decorative, informational and promotional labels to the world's largest healthcare, consumer and agrochemical companies. Our plants deploy leading-edge technologies to provide customers with innovative and secure labelling solutions.

The Ashford site is currently expanding and we have the following vacant positions:

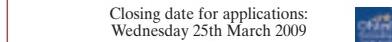
- **One Folding setter operator** with experience of operating large format folding machines
- **One Plate-maker** to join our Studio team, role mainly consists of making and checking printing plates before going to press.
- **One Quality technician** to support our Quality Assurance team in its daily quality checks & inspection and in the continuous improvement of our Quality Management System.
- **One Finance assistant** to provide support with monthly Accounts preparation, looking after fixed assets, journals, cashbooks. Ideally from an Accounting background, accounting technician studier or at least 2 years experience. Payroll and HR support would be an advantage.
- **One Accounts processing clerk (Part-time approx 20hr/week)**

Salary will be dependent on experience.

Candidates applying for the Plate-maker or Quality technician positions would ideally have some experience in similar roles, but trainee positions will also be considered.

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CLOSE ENCOUNTER

Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446493 **T**

WOMEN seeking men**WHAT'S THE SCORE?**

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GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

Sociable girl, 28, loves pubs, social drinks, meeting new people & more, seeks similar male, 58-62, for a lasting relationship. Box 448756 **T**

BRING ME SUNSHINE

Outgoing, fun female, 28, seeks outgoing, fun guy to make me laugh and share good times. Box 882511 **T**

GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE

Loving, loyal female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, 6ft+, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 448441 **T**

GET A STRIKE

African single mom, 30, caring, adventurous, generous, medium build. I love cinema/TV, music, bowling, shopping, cosy nights in. Box 882789 **T**

BLONDE AMBITION

Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 38, 5ft6, likes care, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614 **T**

ANIMAL LOVER?

Nurse, 37yrs, 2 kids, 5ft8, blonde hair, blue eyes, n/s, GSOH, likes cinema, bowling, country pubs, nights in/out, seeks male for friendship and LTR. Box 827619 **T**

DON'T LET ME DOWN

Pretty, black female, 38, 5ft4, like football, socialising and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for a LTR. Box 446684 **T**

CLOSE NIGHT AT THE MOVIES?

Single mum, 43, kind and devoted, likes walks, cinema, beaches and socialising, drinks and films, seeks similar male for lasting love. Box 449586 **T**

JUST IMAGINE

Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTM genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562 **T**

WHERE R U?

Cheerful, honest, popular blonde, 50yrs old, 5ft2, slim build, looking to find an honest, loyal man, Ian please call again/leave contact details. Box 887347 **T**

HERE AND NOW

Outgoing lady, 50, enjoys walks along the beach, nights out and in with a quiet bottle of wine, sees man to love forever. Box 449524 **T**

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS...

I'm 51, fyi up with playing solitaire on the computer! Sincere and loving, enjoy many interests, looking for friendship, hopefully leading to more. Box 881711 **T**

BRING THE SPARKLE

Looking for a fun-to-be-with male, to make me laugh! I'm a fit and active woman, 51, 5ft4, dark hair/blue eyes. I like socialising, and working hard. Box 450176 **T**

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE

Lovely, glossy blonde, 39y old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, with a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 448539 **T**

THE SIMPLE THINGS...

I like reading/writing, going out, music. Seeking kind, genuine, honest chap; I'm a 40y old woman who enjoys the simple things in life. Box 448542 **T**

YOUNG-AT-HEART

Attractive 38y old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, sees loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 901893 **T**

FULL STEAM AHEAD

Seeking genuine, sincere, honest guy who likes to have fun. I'm a friendly, 40y old female and like cats, wind surfing, railway trips, cafes. Box 449747 **T**

NO TIES

Lonely, bored, professional Tunbridge Wells Asian lady, 40, WLTM slim, single, solvent, professional white male 40-50 for company, fun, love and enjoyment. Box 445375 **T**

SOULD GOOD?

Honest, friendly, attractive female, 40, 5ft6, brown hair, blue eyes, looking for a male for friendship and to be his soulmate. Box 446039 **T**

ON THE LOOKOUT FOR LOVE

37y old female, 2 kids, slim, brown hair and eyes, 5ft2, looking for a caring, loving, honest and trusting male to be my someone special. Box 446552 **T**

HISTORIC MEETING?

Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, sees kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693 **T**

HERE WE ARE

Say hi, 38, loves having laughs and lots of fun, seeks similar guy to enjoy special moments and hopefully love with. Box 448679 **T**

SEIZE THE DAY

Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, sees genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666 **T**

MEND A BROKEN HEART

Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for happy hopefulness - no time wasters! Box 908053 **T**

FROM ME TO YOU

Tall leggy blonde, 38, recently bereaved, enjoys meals out or nights in, dry white wine, a good movie & cuddles, seeking a male for companionship. Box 887404 **T**

CUTE AS CAN BE

Cute, single mum of 4, 38yrs old. Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship or possibly romance. Box 308734 **T**

A NEW FUTURE!

I'm Rachel, 35, medium, enjoys pubs, clubs, cosy nights in, cinema, theme parks, looking someone special to share with. Box 448591 **T**

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Caring, loving, sensitive, sincere, attractive, tall, local black man, London born, 40s, sees captivating what Princess to worship & adore truly. Box 448434 **T**

NICE TO MEET YOU...

Good looking divorcee, 48, fit, likes keeping in shape, loves music and gigs; seeking slim lady, relaxed, laid-back, for hopeful good relationship. Box 448816 **T**

ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR!

Youthful dad, 45, 5'10", brown hair, med build, divorcee, likes pubs, cinema, restaurants, theme parks, wifem, female, 36-45, slim, for possible LTR. Cranbrook Box 737529 **T**

LET'S GET TOGETHER

Normal bloke, 50, non worker, with normal interests, seeking a like-minded slim lady, 45-50, for LTR. Box 445316 **T**

JUST FOR YOU

Young-looking, slim male, 43y old, 5ft10, enjoys beach walks and cinema, wifem a mature lady for a committed long term relationship. Margate Box 441706 **T**

A NIGHT UNDER THE STARS TOGETHER?

Adventurous male, 57, 6'1, likes walks, animals, eating in and out, camping and holidays. WLTM like-wise lady with similar interests. Box 449963 **T**

EYE TO EYE

Mixed race man, polite and sociable, 57yrs old, 5ft8, I'm not a big drinker and enjoy walks, good conversation, socialising. Box 450161 **T**

RUSTLE UP SOME LOVE

Hi I'm Phil, 56, 5ft10, slim, own house and car, enjoy eating, drinking, cooking (why not come over for a meal?), seeking lovely lady! Box 436215 **T**

FOR NOW AND THE FUTURE

Male, 57, vertically challenged! 5ft4, bright outlook, looking for a mature female, to share fun times and enjoy life with. Tessa please leave contact details. Box 434739 **T**

ALL NIGHT LONG

I'm 44, dark hair, blue eyes, I'm based in Brighton and enjoy seeing friends, drinks, cinema, walks. Box 450165 **T**

DOWN TO MARGATE!

Young-looking, slim male, 43y old, enjoys beach walks and cinema, wifem a mature lady for a committed long term relationship. Margate Box 441706 **T**

EVER ENDING

Cheeky, happy, fit, intelligent 44y old guy seeks a like-minded friend to live out and chat with and love forever. Box 450284 **T**

BOTTLE OF WINE

Hi there, I'm an easygoing male, 35, 5ft9, medium build, brown hair, blue eyes, good-looking. WLTM lady with similar interests, for relationship. East Sussex area. Box 450172 **T**

DOWN BY THE BEACH

Hi I'm Kevin, 37, 6ft1, medium build, loves cinema, music, walks and the sea, seeking similar girl to find love with. Box 449844 **T**

COULD BE YOU

Very romantic, caring & loyal hard, seeking loving male, 40-45, for an everlasting relationship. Box 445541 **T**

LEAN ON ME

Mixed race man, 40, 5ft8, nice blue eyes, car mechanic, enjoys boating, looking for a nice, honest, loyal lady to share my life with. Box 450148 **T**

A NIGHT UNDER

Young-looking, slim male, 43y old, likes walks, animals, eating in and out, camping and holidays. WLTM like-wise lady with similar interests. Box 449616 **T**

EVERYTHING I DO

I'm 22, 5ft6, brown hair, blue eyes, I'm based in Brighton and enjoy seeing friends, drinks, cinema, walks. Box 450165 **T**

EVERYTHING I DO

Levi, 36y old, 6ft3, dark hair, blue eyes, likes pub, clubs, wine bars, places of interest, sports and reading, wifem a female, 35-52 for promising relationship. Box 449958 **T**

MUSCLE MUSCLE MAN

Muscular mid 40s black guy, 5ft11, great SOH, WLTM attractive slim build white female with GSOH, for loving encounters and uncomplicated relationship. Box 449508 **T**

HERE TO BE WITH YOU

Genuine, kind, affectionate male, 61, slim-medium build, 5ft11, fully domineered! Enjoys gardening, cooking, reading, country pubs; looking for my soulmate. Box 446624 **T**

THE RIGHT PARTICULARS

Non-smoking male, 68, 6ft, looking for someone to go out with. Get in touch for a chat and we can find out more. Box 450149 **T**

Men seeking men

TALL ORDER

40y old chap, 5ft8, dark, slim/muscular build, good looking. Looking for a tall guy for fun. Box 439132 **T**

JOINED IN LOVE?

Good-natured, down-to-earth guy, 46, green eyes, dark hair, slim, enjoys holidays, music, pub, eating in/out, WLTM male, 35-50, for companion ship. Box 441106 **T**

MANY MAN

Trustworthy, honest guy, 49, stocky build, into most things, very romantic, looking for a similar male to spend times with & get close to! Box 883313 **T**

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

More effort into saving energy pays dividends

CASH-conscious businesses have by now found ways of reducing their electricity, gas and water costs by negotiating lower charges and moving to lower energy lighting.

But these savings will soon be eaten up by further increases in prices and carbon taxes says Martyn Young, pictured right, who runs Blean-based Atlantic Business Resources.



"A cost-effective solution is to educate your staff into minimising usage," he said.

"A good way to start is to appoint an 'energy champion' with responsibility for reducing usage. With weekly meter readings, usage can be charted on the wall.

"By engaging staff in this way you are ensuring continuity of effort, rather than one-off training which often gets forgotten. Employee involvement can easily reduce utility costs by ten per cent.

"For higher usage businesses there are energy monitoring and control systems which will take readings every 30 minutes and provide information.

"These cost from about £3,500 upwards, but can easily pay back within one to two years of savings. There are interest-free loans available through the Carbon Trust, and they also attract 100 per cent capital allowances."

Free start-up seminar

PEOPLE thinking of working for themselves are being offered a free training seminar on how to survive and thrive in the recession.

Called Let's Talk Starting In Business, it will be at Barclays business centre in North Street, Ashford, on Friday.

It's run by Capitalise Business Support (CBS) in conjunction with NFEA, the national enterprise network.

CBS managing director Sean Dennis said the aim was to have more workshops in Ashford and Maidstone during the year.

And would-be bosses can also discuss the possibility of finance.

Details on www.barclays.co.uk/seminars, or phone 0845 601 8326.

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Julie Maddocks asks: "Is small really beautiful in business?" Search 'crunch'

Ride property boom when the tide turns

Heart of county will see rapid recovery, delegates told

■ BY TONY PATEY

PROPERTY prices in central Kent will boom again once the economy starts moving out of recession.

The message was clear from county-based industry expert John Elliott at a workshop on this year's outlook for property in the Weald and west Kent.

Mr Elliott, managing director of Millwood Designer Homes, based in Tonbridge, said although current trading remained tough, "stock was beginning to move and individuals could obtain mortgage finance, although on more stringent terms".

He told delegates at the meeting, run by local law firm Thomson Snell & Passmore, that once the turning point in the general economy comes the recovery in the property market would be "rapid".

"As developers would be unlikely to get their existing 'mothballed' sites on line quickly enough to satisfy demand, prices would rise again as fewer sites came on to the market to satisfy need."

Simon Richardson, of the South East England Development Agency (Seeda), said the outlook was mixed.

He added that surveys showed businesses in Kent were less pessimistic about the future than their counterparts in the rest of the South East.

However, he said, the numbers of residents employed in the financial services sector meant the Weald and west Kent area was likely to be more vulnerable to the effects of the credit crunch than other parts of the county.

A discussion group on regeneration and renewal concluded the area was held back by



SAFE AS HOUSES: Aylesford and other parts of central Kent are well placed for the post-recession rebound

factors such as poor road transport links and higher priority for investment given to other areas such as Thanet or the Thames Gateway.

Another group discussing rural and agricultural issues said the rural community had been sustained over a number of years by diversification into other activities.

However, farmers were often prevented from diversifying due to complicated planning rules and regulations and, more recently, restricted finance.

Demand among farmers to develop their businesses was not matched by political will.

Regarding rental property, it was concluded

that in the current market landlords must be prepared to offer more flexible terms to attract and retain tenants and keep up their income, including break clauses and rent-free periods.

In the meantime, developers who had options over potential sites were not exercising them because funding was not generally available for residential development unless sites were wholly pre-let.

So the conclusion was that the Weald and west Kent area is in a good position to take advantage of the upturn when it comes, and what was needed were effective council-led initiatives and a stronger infrastructure.

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HOPES DASHED: Canterbury City (green) ended Sheppey's title dream

Missed chances cost Court ladies

WITH promotion to Division One of the Women's Outdoor League assured, Gore Court ladies slipped to defeat at the weekend.

The Sittingbourne side travelled to Upminster with several key players unavailable. Goalkeeper Kerry Rainer missed the first half due to being stuck in traffic, and it proved costly as they lost 3-1.

Some interesting umpiring lead to Upminster equalising but Court soldiered on with the score level at half-time.

Upminster came out strongly in the second half and scored two early goals and although Court continued to make countless opportunities, they failed to take them.

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Gills boss Mark Stimson reveals latest on Luis Cumbers' future at the club

Old enemy a real tester for Bourne

THE toughest of this season's three remaining Kent 1 fixtures awaits Sittingbourne on Saturday, when they travel to promotion rivals Old Graveshamians.

The Bourne enjoyed a 17-12 derby win over division leaders Medway in their last fixture, but now face an equally daunting game against a side who are above them in the table by virtue of their vastly superior points difference (257 to Sittingbourne's 112).

Graveshamians, who won 23-5 at The Grove on the opening day of the season, battered Askeans 58-0 in their last game.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT
glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk

Islanders' title hopes all over bar shouting

AFC Sheppey 0 Canterbury City 1

AFC Sheppey's hopes of winning the Kent County League Division One East title were all but ended at the weekend as they were beaten by champions-elect, Canterbury City.

Recent form had shown that Sheppey would be formidable opponents, especially on their own ground. And so they were, though not so much as an attacking force but in the way they organised themselves defensively and frustrated

FOOTBALL

City for the whole of the first half.

The islanders managed to keep out City for 45 minutes, but Sheppey became more positive in the early stages of the second half.

Had their finishing matched their ability in defence, they would have had the game wrapped up. City then came back into the game with Scott Lawford hitting the crossbar, before a free-kick

driven into the Sheppey goal rebounded to Wayne Fittall who hit in the winner. City went on to dominate the rest of the game with flowing football that was far removed from their unimpressive first half performance.

Jamie Allen's side have dropped down to second and are level on points with Canterbury, but City still have three games in hand and a superior goal difference.

The islanders return to action on Saturday with a trip to Kennington.

Kent duo bowled over after becoming world champions

CRICKET

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

KENT and England captain Charlotte Edwards admits it's going to take time for it to finally sink in that her side are world champions.

The 29-year-old had previously lost in three World Cup semi-finals, but in the early hours of Sunday morning, Edwards lifted the trophy to cap off an amazing 12-months in which the England women's team won the Ashes in Australia and Edwards herself was named ICC Women's Player of the Year.

In a tense final in New South Wales, England bowled New Zealand out for 166 thanks to Nicky Shaw claiming figures of four for 34 having been drafted in on the day of the game to replace the injured Jenny Gunn. At one stage England were cruising, but lost five wickets for 40 runs to slip to 149 for six, including Edwards for ten and Kent team-mate Lydia Greenway who made eight.

Shaw and spinner Holly Colvin came together at the end to see them over the line to win by four wickets.

A delighted Edwards said: "It's great having the trophy but I think it will take a couple of days to sink in."

"I'm not too sure what I am feeling at the moment but I am just so happy we got over the line in the end. We are world champions – it's just believing it now."

"We made really hard work of it, but it doesn't matter how you win as long as you win. The girls have worked really hard."

"I was biting my fingernails at the end because I didn't want us to mess it up. We had done so well in the field, we bowled and fielded well, so to let it slip stupidly would have been disastrous."

The World Cup is just the start of a big year for Edwards and her side as they look to continue promoting the women's game in England. The Kent and England skipper will lead her side out in the inaugural ICC Women's World Twenty20, which if England make the final, is to be played before the men's Twenty20 final at Lord's later this summer.

The England side also take on Australia looking to make it three Ashes wins in a row, but for now Edwards is savouring the moment of having led a side to the top of the women's game.

She said: "My brother said to me three months ago that we would win it and I have done it."

"If I really put my mind to something it normally happens, but it would not happen if I didn't have such a great bunch of people around me. They have done fantastically well and it's great to see their faces. It's amazing."



WINNERS: Kent and England captain Charlotte Edwards (centre) celebrates with team-mates after winning the World Cup

Picture: GETTY IMAGES



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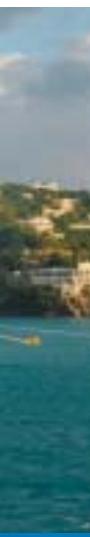
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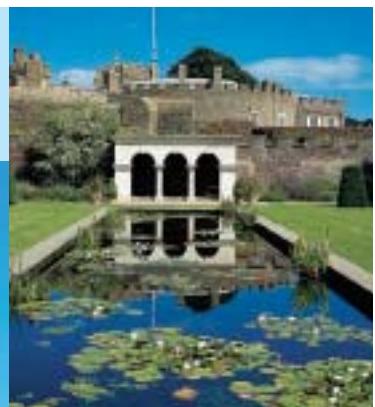
ALLBITS Plumbing Supplies
Unit 60, John Wilson Industrial Estate, Kent, CT5 3QT Whitstable

ALL Price Include VAT at 15%





Local Flights

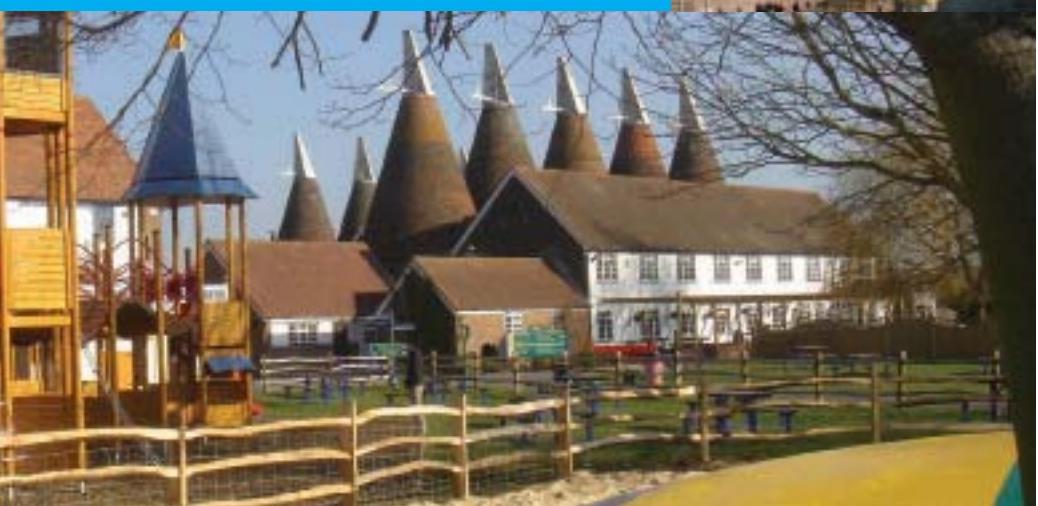
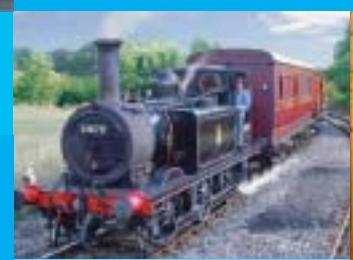


Holidays

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Historical Sites



Museums



Family Fun Days Out



2009 at Dover Cruise Terminal



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